Sandy Hook lawsuit

Judge finds Alex Jones to be in contempt of court and issues fine. **News, Page 2**

Republican backs Jackson

Sen. Susan Collins says she'll vote to confirm Jackson to Supreme Court. **News, Page 4**

Gaffney leaving Huskies

UConn junior guard Jalen Gaffney to enter transfer portal. **Sports, Page 1**

Milder

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers; high 62. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant

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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Health commissioner warns about surge

State prepares for spread of BA.2 variant

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

As the highly transmissible omicron subvariant BA.2 gains ground in Connecticut, Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani said Wednesday that the state is preparing for a potential spike in COVID-19 cases.

"I would say we will see some sort of surge," Juthani said in an interview with the Courant.

Juthani

INSIDE

Second boosters

What those age 50 and older should know about receiving a second booster shot to curb COVID-19. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Juthani noted that the United Kingdom — which tends to foreshadow COVID-19 trends in the United States — began to see an increase in COVID-19 cases driven by BA.2 in late February. That spike peaked last week and is now on the decline.

BA.2 is "spreading faster" than the original omicron variant, Juthani said, and while it is impossible to predict precisely what will happen in the coming weeks, the Department of Public Health is bracing for an increase in cases and is poised to expand statewide testing capacity.

Experts in Connecticut have been warning for weeks of a possible spike in cases driven by BA.2, which has been shown to be more transmissible, but not cause more severe illness, than the original omicron variant.

"We won't be surprised if we see an uptick in cases," Juthani said. "We do have the tools on how to protect ourselves, after two years of doing this."

DPH is prepared to "really ramp up" COVID-19 testing sites once again and has alerted state testing contractors of a potential spike, according to Juthani. At the height of the omicron surge, the state had 30 sites in operation; 23 currently remain open.

Connecticut has notified the testing sites that closed due to low volume that they should be prepared to resume operations if necessary, Juthani said. In total, the state could return to running those 30 testing sites, with the possibility of two additional sites as well.

"What we saw with omicron was, if we get hit hard fast, you can't build the apparatus overnight," Juthani said. "It just cannot

Turn to Variant, *Page 3*

WAR IN UKRAINE

Attacks come after pledge to scale back

US: Russian aides hid poor military showing from Putin

By Nebi Qena and Yuras Karmanau
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces bombarded areas around Kyiv and another city just hours after pledging to scale back operations in those zones to promote trust between the two sides, Ukrainian authorities said Wednesday.

The shelling and intensified Russian attacks on other parts of the country tempered optimism from the day before about any progress in the talks in Istanbul aimed at ending the punishing war.

Difficulty in resolving the conflict could also be rooted in an assessment by U.S. intelligence officials that Russian President Vladimir Putin is being misinformed by advisers about his military's poor performance in Ukraine, according to the White House. The advisers are scared to tell him the truth, the intel says.

The intelligence community has also concluded that Putin was unaware that his military had been using and losing conscripts in Ukraine.

The findings, recently declassified, indicate that Putin is aware of the situation on information coming to him and there now is persistent tension between him and senior Russian military officials.

The U.S. believes Putin is being misled not only about his military's performance but also "how the Russian economy is being crippled by sanctions because, again, his senior advisers are too afraid to tell him the truth," White House communications director Kate Bedingfield said Wednesday.

While President Joe Biden said in an exchange with reporters that he could not comment on the intelligence, the administration is hopeful that divulging the finding could help prod Putin to reconsider his options in Ukraine, according to a U.S. official. The official was not authorized to comment and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

But the publicity could also risk further isolating Putin, who U.S. officials have said seems at least in part driven by a desire to win back Russian prestige lost by the fall of

Turn to Ukraine, *Page 3*

I'M TIRED OF YOUR EMAILS
DECARBONIZTUC
2. Mandate the UConn Office of Governmental Relations to promote the university's commitment to beginning the infrastructure transition at the local, state, + federal level

UConn students hold signs during a meeting Wednesday of its board of trustees. The students were demanding the university decrease its carbon footprint. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

UConn students stage climate demonstration

Assemble during board of trustees meeting, demand carbon-free campus by 2040

By Seamus McAvoy | Hartford Courant

A half-dozen UConn students staged a stand-in protest at Wednesday's board of trustees meeting to draw attention to what they view as the university's lethargic action on climate change, despite years of student activism, including research by a working group commissioned by the university.

Students are pushing for the decarbonization of UConn by the year 2040 — 10 years ahead of the university's current goal — with a transparent commitment to overhauling carbon-reliant infrastructure, reducing emissions and implementing other policies.

"[The university] keeps saying 'We're a green school, we're doing all these things for students,' but they're not taking the really basic and needed steps to actually address the climate crisis," Sena Wazer, UConn senior and director of Sunrise CT, told the Courant.

One of the students' top priorities is for UConn to set a date to halt the university's carbon-emitting central utility plant, the main source of power for much of campus.

The central utility plant, which by coincidence faced an outage last week, began operation in 2006 and produces electric and thermal energy from the same source. It uses natural gas, making it more energy-efficient than plants backed by coal, but is not carbon-neutral.

The UConn President's Working Group on Sustainability and the Environment found that the plant produces 70% of the campus' carbon emissions, according to Brandon Hermoza-Ricci, UConn senior and working group member.

Closing the plant wouldn't be easy, Hermoza-Ricci concedes. The university would have to tap into the renewable energy grid to make up for the energy currently provided by the

Turn to Climate, *Page 3*

Famed Connecticut photographer Bob Child dies at 86

Associated Press photographer Bob Child III at his office space in the Hartford AP bureau in 1997. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Bob Child, a news photographer known for finding the "choice ground" to capture five decades of Connecticut disasters, sports, protests and politicians, died Wednesday. He was 86.

Child photographed every governor from John Dempsey to John Rowland. When Gov. Ella T. Grasso died, the family asked that Child be one of two photographers allowed in the church.

Stephen Dunn, a Courant photographer for 37 years, called Child "the Godfather of Connecticut photojournalists." He met the Associated Press photographer in 1974 while working at the defunct Manchester Evening Herald, Dunn said, "and he took me under his wing."

Dunn and other journalists noted Child's reputation for choosing the right place to be — and throwing an elbow or two if necessary to get the best vantage point.

"In news photography, as in real estate," former Courant columnist Jim Shea wrote in 1997, "location is everything, and Child is renowned for his uncanny ability to find and hold the choice ground. This gift has not gone unnoticed by his colleagues, and the neighborhood around him is considered upscale."

"Whenever we were at an assignment, anything big, all of us watched where Bob was, and if you lost sight of him, you were in trouble because that meant you were going to miss the shot," Dunn said.

"One of the great things about Bob," his longtime friend and fellow AP photographer Douglas Healey said, "on assignment, he would take a stance with his legs very wide — extremely wide. He would be at the center and nobody could get past him or in front of him. He was very focused."

Robert Child III died at Connecticut Hospice in Branford. He is survived by three children, Sara Stevens, Emily

Turn to Child, *Page 2*

Family of Sandy Hook victim praises arts magnet school

Nelba Marquez-Greene and Jimmy Greene helped inaugurate the arts magnet school in Bloomfield named after their daughter, Ana Grace. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Judge finds Alex Jones in contempt, imposes fine

'Willful' failure to submit to deposition by families of Sandy Hook victims

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A Superior Court judge on Wednesday found conspiracy theorist and Infowars host Alex Jones in contempt of court and imposed a fine of up to $50,000 a day for what she called his "willful" violation of her orders that he submit to questioning at a deposition by families of victims of the Sandy Hook School killings.

After a series of delays, Jones failed to comply last week with repeated orders by Barbara Bellis that he appear for a deposition on March 23 and 24 in Austin, Texas, where his internet broadcasting company is located. Relatives of the children murdered in the 2012 school shooting in Newtown have been trying for years to question him in connection with their suit filed in response to his broadcast assertions that the shootings were a hoax.

Jones claimed he was unable to sit for the deposition because of a health condition that is aggravated by stress. But Bellis said medical explanations by two of Jones' physicians were unconvincing. She said there is evidence that, even though Jones' legal team said he was at home under medical care, he actually was broadcasting during the times the depositions had been scheduled and told his audience his condition was caused by a sinus blockage.

"With respect to the question of contempt, the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant Alex Jones, willfully and in bad faith, violated without justification several clear court orders requiring his attendance at his depositions on March 23 and 24," Bellis said in court.

At the conclusion of a brief hearing in Waterbury, she said Jones can have the contempt order purged if he sits for two days of deposition in Connecticut by April 15. In the meantime, she ordered him to pay as much as $50,000 a day, until the depositions take place. If he were to fail to appear, she said she would be ready to impose additional penalties.

Delays in moving the suit forward have tested Bellis' patience. Late last year she took the extraordinary step of issuing a default order against Jones — effectively settling the suit in favor of the families and leaving only the question of damages against him and his businesses unresolved.

Bellis said in court Wednesday that she will not deviate from the existing schedule, which calls for selecting a jury in August and beginning a trial on Sept. 1. Because of the default order, the only question before the jury will be the amount of damages Jones is ordered to pay the victim families. How — or if — Jones answers deposition questions will be a important part of the damage calculation.

The fine imposed on Jones begins Friday at the rate of $25,000 payable to the state judiciary, skips the weekend and increases to $50,000 on Monday. If Jones were to submit to two days of deposition by April 15 at the Bridgeport offices of the victim lawyers, Bellis said her contempt order would be lifted and the money refunded.

Jones' lawyer Cameron Atkins told Bellis his client has always been willing to be deposed and his absence was based only on medical advice. The only possible impediment Atkins mentioned could be a conflict between a requirement by the victims' law firm, Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, that visitors wear masks because of the coronavirus pandemic and Jones' refusal to wear one.

Bellis said she would not force Jones' appearance for a deposition by issuing an order for his arrest and incarceration. But she said she would not prevent victim lawyer Christopher Mattei from pursuing such an order in Texas, where Jones lives.

However, should Jones not comply with the April 15 deadline, Bellis said she would consider an order that would preclude Jones from presenting the jury any evidence in his favor, as well as instructing jurors that they should hold Jones' refusal to be deposed against him. Finally, Bellis said she is inclined to order Jones to pay the victims' lawyers $40,000 to cover costs associated with their trip to Texas last week for the deposition that did not take place.

Radio show host and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones in 2018 at Capitol Hill in Washington. **J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP**

Child

from Page 1

Smith and Robert Child IV, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, his daughter, Sara, said. His wife, Joan, died in 2008 and his twin brother, Pat Child, a videographer for WTNH, died in 2004.

Child was born in Boston, grew up in New Haven and graduated from Yale University in 1958. He started working that year for the New Haven Register, followed by the New Haven Journal-Courier before joining the AP in 1972.

Child photographed anti-war riots and the Black Panther Trials in New Haven in the late 1960s and early '70s and the collapse of the L'Ambiance Plaza in Bridgeport in 1987, which killed 28 construction workers. Shooting the Bridgeport tragedy was a particularly tough assignment, his daughter Sara and friend Healey both said.

"I try not to get emotionally involved when working," Child told Shea in 1997. "I've done stuff where I have cried afterward, but not while I was there. You cry on your own time, throw up on your own time. If you can't deal with it, you need to get out."

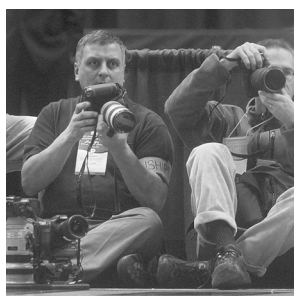
"Everything he covered left some lasting impression on him," Stevens said.

Child won the National Associated Press Managing Editors award for Feature Photos in 1988 for an image of a police officer saluting with tears in his eyes at the funeral of her fiancé, a cop who was killed making a routine traffic stop.

He photographed dozens of politicians, including U.S. presidents, senators and representatives.

"For guys like me in front of his camera," U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said, "Bob Child was not only the consummate pro but a wonderful friend of depth and warmth. He brightened our day no matter how tough the story and he illuminated it with a penetrating insightful eye. My thoughts and heart are with his family."

Associated Press photographer Bob Child, right, is with his twin brother, television news photographer Pat Child, in 1965. **COURTENEY CHILD GETTEL VIA AP**



Bob Child, left, photographs a first-round NCAA Tournament women's game in 2007 at the Hartford Civic Center. **COURANT FILE**

Child's' brother Pat worked for WTNH-TV for more than 40 years, and Connecticut journalists used to describe major news stories as "Two Child Events," because both men would be on the scene. Bob Child survived some hairy assignments, Shea wrote, but his only on-the-job injury was at the Canon-Greater Hartford Open golf tournament in 1985.

"Bob was positioned on the edge of the green when a shot from golfer Phil Blackmar hit him in the head, causing a gash that required a dozen stitches," Shea wrote. "Child's head kept Blackmar's ball in play, and he went on to win his first tournament."

Blackmar, who won $108,000, gave the injured man an autographed ball, and Child's friends gave him a hat with a target on it.

A mentor to young photographers

"Bob took a chance on me 20 years ago as a photographer who had no formal experience or education in photography," Jessica Hill, freelance photographer for the AP and the Courant, said. "I was such a pest who would bug him at basketball games and mail him clippings and letters trying to get signed up as an AP stringer.

"He finally gave in," Hill said. "I'm so grateful. I told him when I last saw him at Connecticut Hospice that there is a piece of him in every assignment I do."

At a celebration in 2007 of Child's 35 years with the AP, news photographers had a mock elbow-throwing session, pretending they were at a press conference and jockeying for the best position. At the center of the scrum was Child, smiling.

Dunn said he visited his friend last week at the hospice center. The old photographer was alone in a room overlooking Long Island Sound.

"I knew it would be the last time I ever saw him," Dunn said. "I held out my elbow. I said, 'One last time?' And he looked up at me and jammed my elbow with his elbow and smiled."

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LOTTERY
Wednesday, March 30

PLAY3 DAY	PLAY4 DAY
0 3 6 WB: 4	1 2 2 7 WB: 4

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT	2 4 5 WB: 5
PLAY4 NIGHT	8 2 6 8 WB: 8
CASH 5	6 9 12 16 26
LUCKY FOR LIFE	6 15 16 22 47 LB: 6
LOTTO	1 6 13 41 43 44
MEGA MILLIONS	7 22 36 45 47 MB: 12 MP: 2

Friday's est. Lotto jackpot: $1.6 million
Friday's est. Mega Millions jackpot: $70 million

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4/1 -3 The Saybrook Stage Co. presents: *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*
A heartwarming and powerful collection of monologues and pieces about women, their clothing and the memories they hold.

4/6 *Marc Broussard*
Marc Broussard is a singer, songwriter, performer, and humanitarian. His style is best described as "Bayou Soul", a mix of funk, blues, R&B, rock and pop, matched with distinct Southern roots.

4/7 *Walter Trout*
One of the great purveyors of the blues and blues-rock, Walter Trout has been nothing short of prolific over the course of his seven decades on this Earth.

4/8 *Journeyman- A Tribute to Eric Clapton*
Fronted by Shaun Hague, Journeyman provide a powerful performance of all aspects of Clapton's career from Bluesbreakers to From The Cradle!

4/9 *Plywood Cowboy*
Born in the Connecticut River Valley in 2015, Plywood Cowboy continues to expand nationally with their folk/country offerings: crafting songs ripe with nostalgic comforts, yet perfectly suited for the soundtrack of modern life.

4/10 *The Everly Brothers Experience*
The Zmed Brothers are absolutely thrilled to continuing recognition and preservation of the intimate and singular origins of America's greatest Rock n' Roll singing sibling duo.

4/14 *Once An Outlaw*
Don't confuse Once an Outlaw with another tribute show, this is an alumni show celebrating the southern rock genre. Featuring Chris Anderson, Chris Hicks, Chuck Farrell, Mike Kach, A.J. Vallee, and more.

4/15 *Jimmy Webb*
Multiple Grammy-winning songwriter Jimmy Webb has topped the charts from pop to country to disco numerous times.

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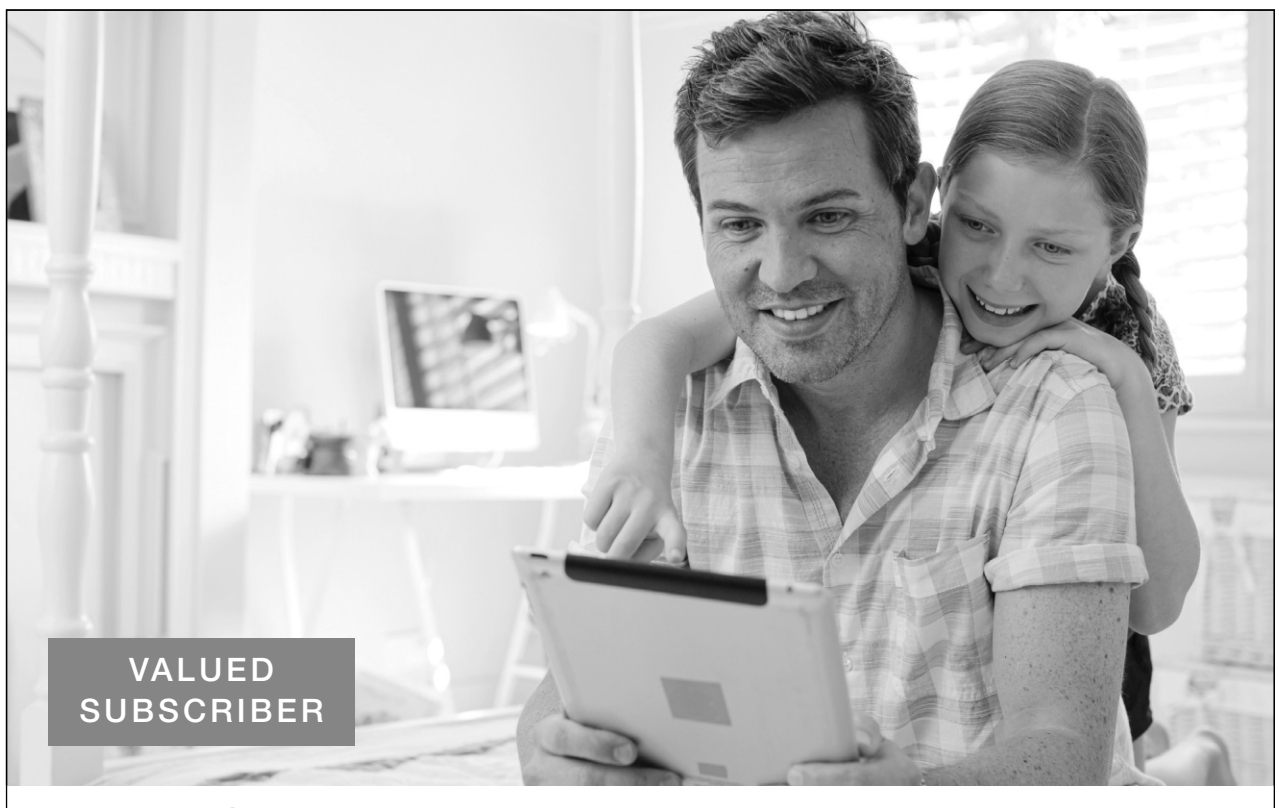

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FROM PAGE ONE

Variant

from Page 1

happen."

In the past two weeks, COVID-19 hospitalizations in Connecticut have largely plateaued, with about 100 patients hospitalized with the virus across the state each day. The state's weekly test positivity rate has begun to slightly increase, from a four-week low of 2.36% on March 4 to 3.10% on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, BA.2 has become increasingly dominant. Last week, Nathan Grubaugh, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health who runs a lab tracking the spread of COVID-19 variants in Connecticut, noted that BA.2 made up more than 80% of COVID-19 cases in Southern Connecticut. The subvariant is about 40% more transmissible than the original variant, according to Grubaugh's data.

Dr. Scott Roberts, associate medical director for infection prevention at Yale New Haven Hospital, said Wednesday he also expects some degree of COVID-19 surge.

"I don't expect this to be a wave to the extent that we saw with delta or omicron," he said. "My guess is it's going to be a slow, ongoing uptick, and where that peaks out is a little bit tough to say."

Some countries that had BA.2 spikes have already begun to see numbers decline, which Roberts described as "really good news" while cautioning that it can be difficult to compare nations to each other.

While experts anticipate a rise in COVID-19 cases, it is uncertain whether hospitalizations will spike as well.

Juthani noted that a COVID-19 spike in Connecticut driven by BA.2 is unlikely to be as significant as the state's omicron surge, which peaked at close to 2,000 hospitalizations statewide in early January. That's due to increased levels of immunity to COVID-19 among the Connecticut population, as well as to warming weather, which draws people outside.

Still, breakthrough cases can occur, she emphasized, and older adults and people with comorbidities remain vulnerable to the virus — particularly those who are not vaccinated or who are not fully vaccinated or boosted.

"We have a more infectious variant, people are more relaxed on masking, people are gathering more," she said. "We've had a relaxation of mitigation measures... we have to do that, to some degree. But particularly for our most vulnerable, they need to be aware of that. They need to be aware that their risk is higher."

No Connecticut towns or cities have had a broad mask mandate since the beginning of March.

Connecticut has already distributed 7.5 million at-home COVID-19 tests to residents and is prepared to disperse additional kits, particularly to congregate living settings, including schools, colleges and other types of housing, Juthani said. She also noted that residents can also order up to eight free at-home COVID-19 tests, sent directly to their home, through the federal government.

Connecticut remains among the most vaccinated states in the country, with 78.5% of all residents fully vaccinated, as of Wednesday. Just over half, or 55.1%, of residents at least 18 years old have received a booster dose.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com. Courant staff writer Alex Putterman contributed to this report.

Climate

from Page 1

plant, and many of the older buildings on campus aren't equipped to be powered by non-fossil fuel sources.

"That new grid is something we've identified as a barrier to us being really sustainable," Hermoza-Ricci said.

Chase Mack, UConn junior and president of student group EcoHusky, spoke directly to trustees during the public comment period of Wednesday's meeting, flanked by other students holding signs spelling out "Decarbonize UConn."

"Discontinuing the [central utility plant] by 2040 is necessary," Mack said. "And we need people at your level to organize a multidisciplinary conversation about how we can get to a point where we're energy-independent ... using renewable energy, rather than natural gas."

The students are also asking for a multi-body task force to discuss connection to carbon-free electric infrastructure, and for the university to sever commercial ties with Coca-Cola and Citgo.

In September 2019, UConn students inspired in part by climate activist-icon Greta Thunberg organized a climate strike attended by more than 1,000 people. Wazer, who has long held a passion for climate-related issues, was one of them.

"[I've] been at UConn for many years, we've been protesting for just about all of those years, and no real change has happened," Wazer said.

In response, former UConn President Thomas C. Katsouleas formed the UConn President's Working Group on Sustainability and the Environment, a team made up of students, professors and university consultants. The group has met approximately every week since its formation, producing a 2020 study on climate findings and a 2021 report on actionable steps the university should take.

Concerns over climate change continue to reverberate with students: A lead story on Wednesday's edition of The Daily Campus, UConn's student newspaper, reports on the collapse of an ice shelf the size of New York City in Eastern Antarctica.

But the group and its recommendations have lost steam since Katsouleas' departure from the university last summer, Hermoza-Ricci said, leading to the modest student demonstration on Wednesday.

Students may have another sympathetic ear in Interim UConn President Dr. Radenka Maric, a highly regarded expert in clean energy innovation who worked as a program manager for Canada's Institute for Fuel Cell Innovation prior to joining UConn.

"I hear them. I see myself 30 years ago," Maric told trustees later during the board meeting. Maric was a student at the University of Kyoto and participated in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the international greenhouse gas reduction treaty.

Maric went on to highlight the more than 200 university faculty members who work directly in climate science and renewable energy spaces, and UConn's other climate accolades.

UConn was recently ranked #8 in the country on the Sierra Club's "Cool Schools" list, which ranks

Backed by fellow students, Sydney Collins speaks to the UConn board of trustees about demands to decrease UConn's carbon footprint. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

sustainable campuses. UConn cut its carbon emissions by about 21% since 2017, Maric said, and are on track to reduce them by 30% by 2025.

Maric also played a video for trustees showcasing the climate research and education opportunities at UConn's campuses.

Conspicuously absent from the video, for junior Sydney Collins, was mention of the several student-led organizations doing climate work on campus already. That list that includes Fridays For Future, EcoHusky and UConn Collaborative Organizing, among several others.

"It felt very ironic," Collins said. "We just [made] these demands, and you're still just highlighting what you have done."

UConn is a signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, which asks universities to strike toward carbon neutrality by 2050. The university also has a Climate Action Plan, first drafted in 2010, and in 2016 drafted a 2020 Vision for Campus Sustainability & Climate Leadership.

The students say these plans aren't enough. "Those are just words, and we need to see action," Wazer said.

Asked after their remarks if they believed they were heard by the trustees, Hermoza-Ricci said "I think they saw us."

"And that's the first step to hearing," Mack added.

Other business

- Rachel Rubin, the executive secretary to the board of trustees and president's chief of staff, is retiring. Rubin began at UConn in the early 2000s as an associate athletics director, and briefly served as interim athletics director following the departure of Warde Manuel. She has held the position of executive secretary since 2009, and president's chief of staff in 2011.
- UConn has now sent acceptance letters out to its Class of 2026 after receiving more than 40,000 undergraduate applications, a university record. "It speaks volumes to the development of UConn as a brand, nationally and internationally, and hopefully we'll be able to welcome back the sorts of numbers of international students as we could pre-COVID," said Dan Toscano, board chair.
- The average time to graduate for UConn students is 4.1 years, Toscano said. "I'm told that puts us at number one in the nation, and that's where we want to be," he said.
- Husky Market, an initiative led and funded by students, has raised and distributed more than $500,000 in grocery store gift cards to about 1,500 students who have food insecurity.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Ukraine

from Page 1

the Soviet Union.

"What it does is underscore that this has been a strategic blunder for Russia," Bedingfield said of the intelligence finding. "But I'm not going to characterize how ... Vladimir Putin might be thinking about this."

Meanwhile, Biden told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that an additional $500 million in direct aid for Ukraine was on its way, according to the White House.

During a 55-minute call, the leaders also reviewed security aid already delivered to Ukraine and the effects that weaponry has had on the war, the White House said.

Prior to Wednesday's announcement, the Biden administration had sent Ukraine about $2 billion in humanitarian and security assistance since the start of the war last month.

Congress approved $13.6 billion in assistance earlier this month as part of a broader spending bill.

A bombed house Wednesday in a neighborhood in Kyiv, Ukraine, where shelling was reported. **RONALDO SCHEMIDT/GETTY-AFP**

Bedingfield said the latest round of financial assistance could be used by the Ukrainian government "to bolster its economy and pay for budgetary expenses" including government salaries and maintaining services.

Ukraine's presidential website said Zelenskyy told Biden: "We need peace, and it will be achieved only when we have a strong position on the battlefield. Our morale is firm, there is enough determination, but we need your immediate support."

The Russian military's announcement Tuesday that it would de-escalate near the capital and the northern city of Chernihiv to "increase mutual trust and create conditions for further negotiations" had been met with deep suspicion from Zelenskyy, Biden and other Western officials.

The skepticism seemed well-founded Wednesday.

Ukrainian officials reported that Russian shelling hit homes, stores, libraries and other civilian sites in and around Chernihiv.

Russian troops also stepped up attacks on the Donbas region in the east and around the city of Izyum, which lies on a key route to the Donbas, after redeploying units from other areas, the Ukrainian government said.

Oleksandr Pavliuk, head of the Kyiv region military administration, said Russian shells targeted residential areas and civilian infrastructure in the Bucha, Brovary and Vyshhorod regions around the capital.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said the military also targeted fuel depots in two towns in central Ukraine with air-launched long-range cruise missiles. And Russian forces hit a Ukrainian special forces headquarters in the southern Mykolaiv region, he said, and two ammunition depots in the Donetsk region, which is part of the Donbas.

The U.S. said that over the last 24 hours, Russia had begun to reposition fewer than 20% of its troops that had been arrayed around Kyiv.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said that troops from there and some other zones have begun moving largely to the north, and some have gone into Belarus. Kirby said it appears Russia intends to resupply them and send them back into Ukraine, but it is not clear where.

Olexander Lomako, secretary of the Chernihiv city council, said the Russian announcement turned out to be "a complete lie."

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Jackson on track for confirmation

GOP Sen. Collins to vote for Biden's high court choice

By Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Maine Sen. Susan Collins said Wednesday that she will vote to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, giving Democrats at least one Republican vote and all but assuring that Jackson will become the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

Collins met with Jackson a second time this week after four days of hearings last week and said Wednesday that "she possesses the experience, qualifications, and integrity to serve as an associate justice on the Supreme Court."

"I will, therefore, vote to confirm her to this position," Collins said.

Collins' support gives Democrats at least a one-vote cushion in the 50-50 Senate and likely saves them from having to use Vice President Kamala Harris' tie-breaking vote to confirm President Joe Biden's pick. Senate Democratic leaders are pushing toward a Senate Judiciary Committee vote on the nomination Monday and a final Senate vote to confirm Jackson late next week.

White House chief of staff Ron Klain tweeted that he was "grateful" to Collins for "giving fair, thoughtful consideration" to Jackson and to other lower court nominees she has supported.

Jackson, who would replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, would be the third Black justice, after Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, and the sixth woman. She would also be the first former public defender on the court.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, if confirmed by the Senate, would replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer. **ALEX WONG/GETTY**

All 50 Democrats are expected to support her, though one notable name — Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema — hasn't yet said how she will vote.

Collins was the most likely Republican to support Jackson, and she has a history of voting for Supreme Court nominees picked by presidents of both parties, as well as other judicial nominations.

The only Supreme Court nominee she's voted against since her election in the mid-1990s is Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was nominated by then-President Donald Trump after the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the weeks before Trump's election defeat to Biden in 2020. Collins, who was up for reelection that year, said she voted against Barrett because of the accelerated six-week timeline.

In her statement supporting Jackson, the Maine senator said she doesn't expect that she will always agree with Jackson's decisions.

"That alone, however, is not disqualifying," Collins said. "Indeed, that statement applies to all six justices, nominated by both Republican and Democratic presidents, whom I have voted to confirm."

During Jackson's hearings, several GOP senators interrogated her on sentencing decisions in her nine years as a federal judge and in child pornography cases in particular. The senators, several of whom are eyeing a run for president, asked the same questions repeatedly in an effort to paint her as too lenient on sex criminals.

Jackson told the committee that "nothing could be further from the truth" and explained her sentencing decisions in detail. She said some of the cases have given her nightmares and were "among the worst that I have seen."

Collins told reporters after her announcement that they discussed many of the cases that were brought up at the hearings in an hourlong meeting Tuesday, and "I had no doubt that she applies a very careful approach to the facts of the case when she is judging."

It is unclear if any other GOP senators will vote for Jackson.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., set the tone for the party last week when he said he "cannot and will not" support her, citing the GOP concerns raised in the hearing about her sentencing record and her support from liberal advocacy groups.

Jackson is still making the rounds in the Senate ahead of next week's votes, doing customary meetings with Democratic and Republican senators. On Tuesday, she met with Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, who said afterward that he was undecided about supporting her.

Romney said he had an "excellent meeting" and found Jackson to be intelligent, capable and charming. He said he probably won't decide whether to vote for her until the day of the vote.

Romney voted against Jackson last year, when she was confirmed by the Senate as a federal appeals court judge. Collins, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham were the only three Republicans to support her at the time.

Murkowski and Graham have each indicated they might not vote for her a second time. Murkowski said before the hearings that "I've been clear that previously voting to confirm an individual to a lower court does not signal how I will vote for a Supreme Court justice."

Graham was one of several Republicans on the Judiciary panel who pressed Jackson on the child pornography cases.

Also Wednesday, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said he will not support Jackson, further indication the Judiciary panel will likely deadlock 11-11 at its Monday vote on whether to recommend her confirmation to the full Senate. A deadlocked vote means Democrats will have to spend additional hours on the Senate floor next week to do a "discharge" from committee.

Siren stresses a plea for help from Congress

Ukraine legislators express dire needs to US lawmakers

By Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As members of the Ukrainian parliament were pleading for aid on Capitol Hill, an air raid siren blared from one of their cell phones — a wrenching alert from the war-torn country back home.

One of the visitors reached into her bag, pulled out the phone and let the siren wail in the halls of Congress.

"Right now, you hear the sound?" said Anastasia Radina, a member of the Ukrainian legislative body.

"This is the air raid alarm in the community where my son is staying right now," she said at a news conference this week after meeting with members of Congress. "I need you all to hear that."

The Ukrainian lawmakers met for a second day Wednesday with their counterparts in Congress, urging American allies to more quickly provide additional military aid — fighter jets, tanks and other support — and to impose stiffer economic sanctions on the invading Russians they're trying to push from their country.

The visiting legislators, all women, with family back home, were warning the U.S. that they do not trust negotiations underway with Russian President Vladimir Putin over ending the five-week war. And they impressed on the Americans that their country is at a crucial juncture in the fight against his invasion.

"They desperately need more help both with military assistance and the tightening of sanctions," said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, emerging from Wednesday's private meeting at the Capitol.

U.S. lawmakers have been pressing President Joe Biden's administration to do more for Ukraine — providing their political support for sanctions on Russian leadership, a ban on Russian oil imports to the U.S., even declaring Putin should be investigated for war crimes.

Biden on Wednesday did announce that the U.S. will send another $500 million in direct aid to Ukraine as the Russian invasion continues.

Sens. Rob Portman, center left, and Dick Durbin meet with some members of Ukraine's parliament. From left, Yevheniya Kravchuk, Lesia Zaburanna, envoy Oksana Markarova, Maria Ionova, Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze and Anastasia Radina. **AP**

At the same time, the Senate was working to pass legislation suspending Russia's favored trade status — a measure that has been tangled over a related human rights provision, even though there is widespread support for suspending normal trade relations and halting Russian oil imports.

Lawmakers emerging from two days of meetings with the Ukrainian lawmakers kept up a largely unified front, with both Republicans and Democrats saying more funding would be needed, beyond the nearly $14 billion in military and humanitarian aid recently approved.

Many are members of the Ukraine Caucuses in the House and Senate, formed years ago to bolster the emerging democracy after it emerged from the former Soviet Union.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., described a sense of "buoyancy" in the room with the Ukrainian lawmakers Wednesday amid word of a possible Russian move away from Kyiv, even as he acknowledged the likely fighting still ahead.

"There's a lot of support in Congress to continue to help them," he said.

Yet there is concern in Congress that Biden's administration is too timid in its response and too slow to send needed military equipment. Some speak of an administration "Afghanistan Syndrome."

Republican and Democratic lawmakers suggest there's a hesitancy from the U.S. to push deeper into an overseas conflict with commitments of military aid after 20 years fighting the "forever war" in Afghanistan.

The Ukrainians delivered a long list of specific military equipment they are requesting, and senators said at the top remain the fighter planes the Biden administration has been reluctant to transfer from NATO ally Poland.

In the meetings on Capitol Hill and later with officials at Ukrainian Embassy, the lawmakers said that while they are thankful for the U.S. help their country has received, they need more.

But the Ukrainian lawmakers were apparently leaving Washington without firm commitments.

Opposition lawmaker Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze said there is a "readiness" by members of Congress to act but nothing concrete.

"Unfortunately, we don't have time," she said at a later news conference at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington.

NASA astronaut Mark Vande Hei topped the previous U.S. spaceflight record by 15 days. **BILL INGALLS/NASA**

Astronaut ends 355-day spaceflight with Russian ride home

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

A NASA astronaut caught a Russian ride back to Earth on Wednesday after a U.S. record 355 days at the International Space Station, returning with two cosmonauts to a world torn apart by war.

Mark Vande Hei landed in a Soyuz capsule in Kazakhstan alongside the Russian Space Agency's Pyotr Dubrov, who also spent the past year in space, and Anton Shkaplerov. Wind blew the capsule onto its side following touchdown, and the trio emerged one by one.

Vande Hei, the last one out, grinned and waved as he was carried to a reclining chair out in the open Kazakh steppes.

"Beautiful out here," said Vande Hei, putting on a face mask and ballcap.

Despite escalating tensions between the U.S. and Russia over Vladimir Putin's war with Ukraine, Vande Hei's return followed customary procedures. NASA doctors and other staffers were on hand for the touchdown and planned to return immediately to Houston with the 55-year-old astronaut.

Even before Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, Vande Hei said he was avoiding the subject with his two Russian crewmates. Despite getting along "fantastically ... I'm not sure we really want to go there," he said.

It was the first taste of gravity for Vande Hei and Dubrov since their Soyuz launch last April 9. Shkaplerov joined them at the orbiting lab in October, escorting a Russian film crew up for a brief stay. To accommodate that visit, Vande Hei and Dubrov doubled the length of their stay.

Before departing the space station, Shkaplerov embraced his fellow astronauts as "my space brothers and space sister."

The war tensions bubbled over in other areas of space with the suspension of European satellite launches on Russian rockets and the Europe-Russia Mars rover stuck on Earth for another two years.

Vande Hei surpassed NASA's previous record for the longest single spaceflight by 15 days.

"Broken records mean we're making progress," said NASA's previous space endurance champ, retired astronaut Scott Kelly, whose 340-day mission ended in 2016.

WORLD & NATION

Exodus surpasses 'tragic milestone'

4 million mark tops worst-case estimate made by UN agency

By Srdjan Nedeljkovic and Jamey Keaten
Associated Press

Marina Stadnik, a refugee from Kramatorsk, Ukraine, waits with her four children Monday at a train station in Przemysl, Poland. **SERGEI GRITS/AP**

MEDYKA, Poland — The number of people who have fled Ukraine since Russian troops invaded has surpassed 4 million, the United Nations reported Wednesday as shelling continued in places where Moscow had vowed to ease its military operations.

"I do not know if we can still believe the Russians," refugee Nikolay Nazarov, 23, said as he crossed Ukraine's border into Poland with his wheelchair-bound father.

Despite Russia's announcement during talks Tuesday that its forces would ease their assault near Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, and elsewhere, Nazarov said he expects "more escalation" in the country's east, including the city he and his father fled.

"That is why we cannot go back to Kharkiv," he said. "We are afraid of a new phase of war in eastern Ukraine."

For Diana Konstantynova, a 45-year-old accountant from Vinnytsia in southern Ukraine, Russia's promise to scale back its attacks is not a signal she can safely return home.

"I do not believe in a truce," said Konstantynova, who fled to Romania with her 8-year-old son a month ago. She says they will only return when "bombs stop exploding in my city" and "when Russian troops completely leave our territory."

Elena Litvinova, a 33-year-old accountant from Mykolaiv, is also skeptical of Russia's promises and will only head home with her two young children when "our president says that the war is over."

"During the negotiations, the city administration and children's educational institutions where my children studied were destroyed," she said at a refugee center in Romania's central city of Brasov, where she says they will stay until the war is over. "It's still very scary, every day we get messages from home that there is shooting and bombing."

Olha Kovalyova, who arrived in Poland with her two children, said she didn't trust Moscow because it had failed to fulfill earlier promises made in the framework of 2014 and 2015 agreements aimed at ending fighting between Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian forces in the eastern Donbas region.

"The Minsk agreement is not working, so how can we call it peace talks if they are shooting and bombing our cites during and after the talks?" Kovalyova said. "There is no trust in Russia, but also I hope for peace and calm, but unfortunately this is the situation."

The U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, said Wednesday that more than 4 million people have left Ukraine since Russia launched its invasion on Feb. 24 and sparked Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. That number exceeds the worst-case predictions made at the start of the war.

Half of the refugees from Ukraine are children, according to UNHCR and the U.N. children's agency UNICEF.

"I think it's a tragic milestone," said Alex Mundt, the UNHCR senior emergency coordinator in Poland. "It means that in less than a month or in just about a month, 4 million people have been uprooted from their homes, from their families, their communities, in what is the fastest exodus of refugees moving in recent history."

More than 2.3 million refugees from Ukraine entered Poland, but some have since traveled on to other countries. A small number have returned to Ukraine, either to help in the defense against the Russians or to care for relatives.

More than 608,000 refugees have entered Romania, over 387,000 have gone to Moldova, and about 364,000 have entered Hungary in the last five weeks, UNHCR said, based on counts provided by the governments of those countries.

"The situation inside Ukraine is spiraling," UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said in a statement Wednesday. "As the number of children fleeing their homes continues to climb, we must remember that every single one of them needs protection, education, safety and support."

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi entered Ukraine on Wednesday and said he would be in the western city of Lviv and discuss ways to increase support "to people affected and displaced by this senseless war."

UNHCR projected from the onset that about 4 million people might flee Ukraine.

Aid workers say the number of people fleeing eased in recent days as many residents awaited indications of the direction the invasion might take. The U.N. estimates the war also has displaced 6.5 million people within the country.

The International Organization for Migration, which tracks not just refugees but all people on the move from their homes, reported earlier this month that more than 12 million people are estimated to be stranded in areas of Ukraine under attack or cannot leave because of security risks, the destruction of bridges and roads and a lack of information about safe destinations and lodging.

All told, more than 22 million people are either blocked from moving or have been forced to flee, IOM figures show.

Trinity Health Of New England Medical Group Welcomes Robert Pepperman, M.D.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Trinity Health Of New England Medical Group welcomes **Robert Pepperman, M.D.** as a physician for the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Saint Francis Hospital and Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital.

Dr. Pepperman most recently practiced for the Department of Occupational Medicine and Wellness at Yale New Haven Health's Northeast Medical Group. He previously served as a physiatrist for Starling Physicians, formally Grove Hill Medical Center. Dr. Pepperman was also an Assistant Professor of Clinical Orthopaedics at Yale School of Medicine and a Clinical Associate Professor for the Quinnipiac University School of Nursing.

Dr. Pepperman, who earned his medical degree from New York Medical College, completed an internship and residency at New York University Medical Center. Dr. Pepperman will be seeing patients at Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford.

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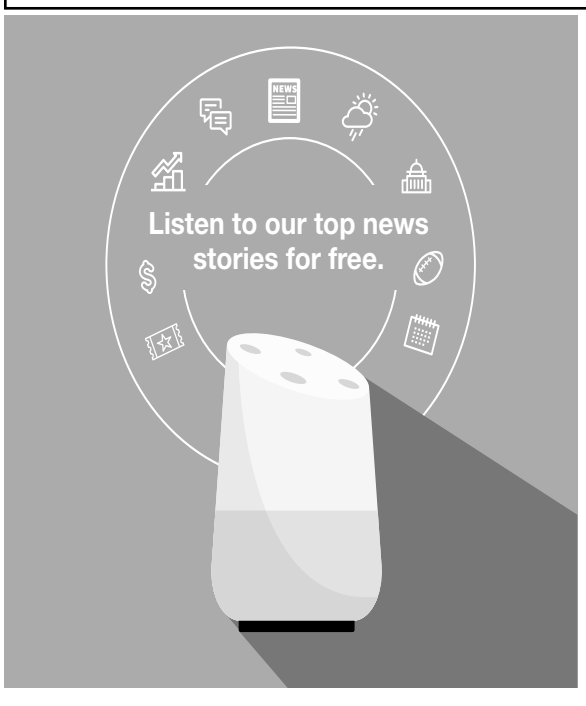

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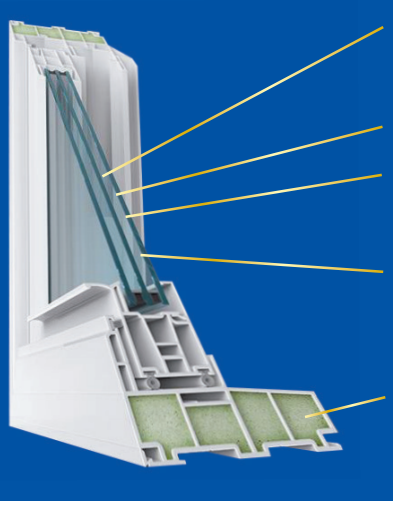

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Trump's favored 'weapon': Lawsuits

Ex-president uses legal action as way to attack, critics say

By Jill Colvin, Eric Tucker and Bernard Condon
Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump during a rally Saturday night in Commerce, Georgia. In industries where he made and lost fortunes, Trump often turned to filing lawsuits as a business weapon. **HYOSUB SHIN/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION**

NEW YORK — When a Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic panned his plans for a new Manhattan skyscraper, Donald Trump responded with a lawsuit.

When the tenants of a building he was trying to clear sued to halt their evictions, Trump slapped back by filing suit against the law firm representing the tenants.

And when an author said the former president was worth far less than he'd claimed, Trump again took legal action.

So when Trump last week filed a lawsuit accusing his 2016 rival Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party of conspiring to sink his winning presidential campaign by alleging ties to Russia — renewing one of his longest-standing perceived affronts — it wasn't a surprise to his longtime observers.

Trump has spent decades repurposing political and personal grievances into causes of legal action. Throughout his business and political career, he has used the courts as a venue to air his complaints and as a tool to intimidate adversaries, sully their reputations and try to garner media attention.

"It's part of his pattern of using the law to punish his enemies, as a weapon, as something it was never intended to be," said James Zirin, a former federal prosecutor in Manhattan and the author of the book "Plaintiff in Chief," which details Trump's legal history. "For him, litigation was a way of life."

Trump's latest lawsuit revisits a familiar grievance: that Democrats in 2016 concocted fictitious claims that his campaign was colluding with Russia and that the FBI as a result pursued an "unfounded" investigation.

The 108-page suit, as much a political screed as a legal document, names as defendants familiar targets of his ire from both the political realm — Clinton and her aides — and the law enforcement community. It also piggybacks off the work of special counsel John Durham, listing as defendants the three people — a cybersecurity attorney, an ex-FBI lawyer and a Russia analyst — who have been charged in that criminal probe.

Trump, in the suit, paints himself as the victim of a vast, racketeering conspiracy in which FBI officials who led the probe knew that it was "based on a false and contrived premise."

It's well-established through a Justice Department inspector general investigation that the FBI made errors and missteps during the Russia probe that Trump could look to seize on if his lawsuit advances.

But Russia did meddle in the 2016 election.

U.S. intelligence agencies concluded in January 2017 that Russia mounted a far-ranging influence campaign aimed at helping Trump beat Clinton. And the bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee, after three years of investigation, affirmed those conclusions, saying intelligence officials had specific information that Russia preferred Trump and that Russian President Vladimir Putin had "approved and directed aspects" of the Kremlin's influence campaign.

It also found clear ties between Trump's campaign and Russia, concluding that Trump's campaign chairman had regular contact with a Russian intelligence officer and that other Trump associates were eager to exploit the Kremlin's aid.

Representatives for Trump did not respond to requests for comment. Trump attorney Alina Habba defended him.

"We have another suit being filed shortly," she said on the Newsmax network. "And anybody that's going to try and make up malicious stories about him while he was sitting as president, prior to his presidency or now is going to be sued."

Trump, meanwhile, was already using the filing to rile up his crowds Saturday at a rally in Georgia.

"To fight back against this corrupt establishment's relentless hoaxes and lies, this week I filed a historic lawsuit to hold them accountable for the Russia hoax," Trump said to cheers.

In addition to serving as a useful political cudgel, Trump's effort, which comes as he is mulling another run for the White House, could lend the imprimatur of credibility to campaign trail grievances, said Stephen Gillers, a New York University professor of legal ethics.

"To the unaware public, the fact that grievances are repackaged as legal claims adds credibility to the force of those grievances," Gillers said. "Anyone who pays attention to what goes on in the courts will be able to see through these claims as claims of political victimization in another form. But the public by and large does not pay attention to the validity of the claims."

Last year, Trump filed suits against three of the country's biggest tech companies, claiming he and other conservatives had been wrongfully censored after his accounts were suspended.

It's a tactic Trump has used again and again.

In the real estate, casino and other industries where the former president made fortunes and lost them, Trump's use of lawsuits as a business weapon was legendary. He sued or threatened to sue contractors, business partners, tax authorities and the media.

"Trump loved to sue, especially parties that could not afford a legal defense," said Barbara Res, a former longtime Trump Organization executive turned critic. She said one legal tactic he turned to often was the "preventive strike" suit to weaken rivals and create the impression he was the aggrieved party.

When Trump defaulted on a giant Deutsche Bank loan for his Chicago hotel and condo tower during the 2008 financial crisis, he didn't wait to be sued. Instead, he filed a complaint accusing the lender of "predatory lending practices" that hurt his reputation and helped trigger the global depression.

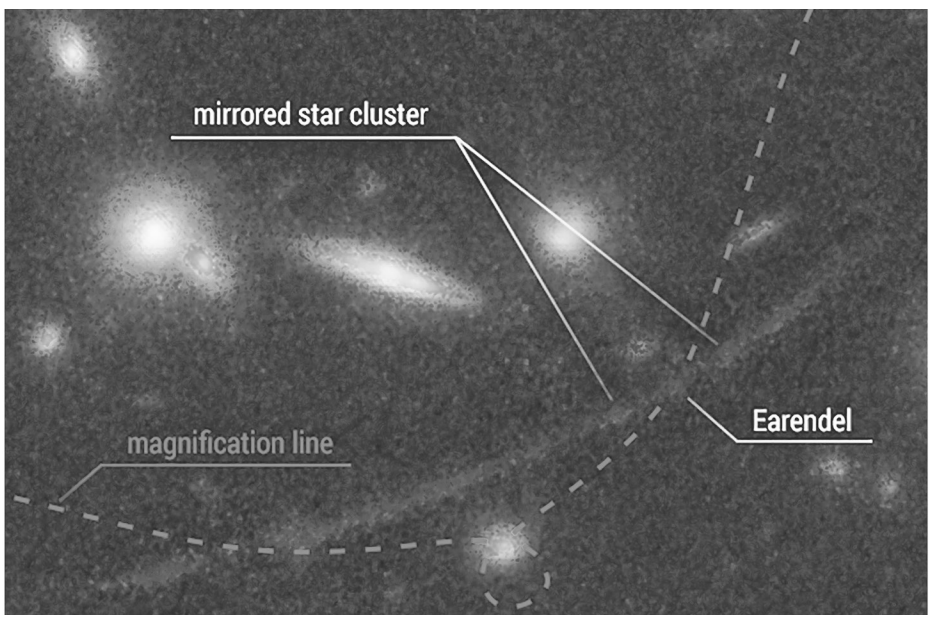
Instead of paying the bank, he argued, the bank should be paying him.

It was a novel argument that succeeded.

Deutsche Bank ended up forgiving some of his loan, then extending him hundreds of millions of dollars in new loans in the coming years.

A 2016 USA Today investigation found Trump had been involved in at least 3,500 court cases over the course of three decades — more than five other top U.S. real estate owners combined. In more than half of the cases, Trump was the one who had sued.

"He's exceptionally litigious, much of which is instituted not to win but rather to frustrate the opposing party by causing financial hardship," said Trump's former fixer-turned adversary Michael Cohen, who went to jail for making hush money payments to a porn star who alleged an affair with Trump.



This image made by the Hubble Space Telescope shows the star Earendel. At almost 13 billion years old, it's the oldest star ever seen. **NASA, ESA, BRIAN WELCH, DAN COE AND ALYSSA PAGAN**

Twinkle, twinkle giant star, Hubble sees how far you are

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Astronomers have discovered the farthest star yet, a superhot, superbright giant that formed nearly 13 billion years ago at the dawn of the cosmos.

But this luminous blue star is long gone, so massive that it almost certainly exploded into bits just a few million years after emerging. Its swift demise makes it all the more incredible that an international team spotted it with observations by the Hubble Space Telescope. It takes eons for light emitted from distant stars to reach us.

"We're seeing the star as it was about 12.8 billion years ago, which puts it about 900 million years after the Big Bang," said astronomer Brian Welch, a doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University and lead author of the study appearing in Wednesday's journal Nature.

He nicknamed it Earendel, an Old English name which means morning star or rising light — "a fitting name for a star that we have observed in a time often referred to as 'Cosmic Dawn.'"

The previous record-holder, Icarus, also a blue supergiant star spotted by Hubble, formed 9.4 billion years ago. That's more than 4 billion years after the Big Bang.

In both instances, astronomers used a technique known as gravitational lensing to magnify the minuscule starlight. Gravity from clusters of galaxies closer to us — in the foreground — serve as a lens to magnify smaller objects in the background. If not for that, Icarus and Earendel would not have been discernible given their vast distances.

While Hubble has spied galaxies as far away as 300 million to 400 million years of the universe-forming Big Bang, their individual stars are impossible to pick out.

"Usually they're all smooshed together ... But here, nature has given us this one star — highly, highly magnified, magnified by factors of thousands — so that we can study it," said NASA astrophysicist Jane Rigby, who took part in the study. "It's such a gift really from the universe."

Vinicius Placco of the National Science Foundation's NOIRlab in Tucson, Arizona, described the findings as "amazing work." He was not involved in the study.

Placco said based on the Hubble data, Earendel may well have been among the first generation of stars born after the Big Bang. Future observations by the newly launched James Webb Space Telescope should provide more details, he said, and "provide us with another piece of this cosmic puzzle that is the evolution of our universe."

Current data indicate Earendel was more than 50 times the size of our sun and an estimated 1 million times brighter, outsizing Icarus. Earendel's small, yet-to-mature home galaxy looked nothing like the pretty spiral galaxies photographed elsewhere by Hubble, according to Welch, but rather "kind of an awkward-looking, clumpy object."

Unlike Earendel, he said, this galaxy probably has survived, although in a different form after merging with other galaxies.

"It's like a little snapshot in amber of the past," Rigby said.

Asylum limits at border likely to end on May 23, sources say

By Colleen Long, Jason Dearen and Elliot Spagat
Associated Press

Migrants walk outside a fenced-off camp that blocks the entrance to a pedestrian crossing from Tijuana, Mexico, into the United States. **GREGORY BULL/AP 2021**

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is expected to end the asylum limits at the U.S.-Mexico border by May 23 that were put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, according to people familiar with the matter.

The decision, not yet final, would halt use of public health powers to absolve the United States of obligations under American law and international treaty to provide haven to people fleeing persecution, and would apply to all seeking asylum.

Ending the limitations in May would allow for time to prepare at the border, the people said. But the delay runs against the wishes of top Democrats and others who say COVID-19 has long been used as an excuse for the U.S. to get out of asylum obligations.

It also raises the possibility that more asylum-seeking migrants will come to the border at a time when flows are already high. The Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday that about 7,100 migrants were coming daily, compared with an average of about 5,900 a day in February and on pace to match or exceed highs from last year, 2019 and other peak periods.

President Joe Biden declined to discuss his administration's plans, telling reporters Wednesday at the White House, "We'll have a decision on that soon."

Whenever the limits are lifted, his communications director said "there will be an influx of people to the border. We are doing a lot of work to plan for that contingency." Speaking broadly, Kate Bedingfield said the administration is trying to "build up our migration system and ensure that we are restoring order at the border."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had extended its asylum-blocking powers for two months in late January, near the height of the omicron variant. The authority is up for renewal this week, and officials were expected to announce as early as Friday that it would be terminated.

The people familiar with the plans saw a draft report that has not been finalized and they spoke on condition of anonymity.

The limits went into place in March 2020 under the Trump administration as coronavirus cases soared. While officials said at the time that it was a way to keep COVID-19 out of the United States, there always has been criticism that the restrictions were used as an excuse to seal the border to migrants unwanted by then-President Donald Trump.

It was perhaps the broadest of Trump's actions to restrict crossings and crack down on migrants. The health order has caused migrants to be expelled from the United States more than 1.7 million times since March 2020 without a chance for them to request asylum.

And restrictions took effect over the objections of CDC officials, and Dr. Martin Cetron of the Division of Migration and Quarantine refused the order to begin its use. He said there was no public health basis for such a drastic move, the AP reported. But then-Vice President Mike Pence ordered the CDC's director to use the agency's emergency powers and it went into effect.

As mask mandates were lifted, vaccination rates climbed and COVID-19 rates dropped among migrants crossing from Mexico it became increasingly difficult to defend the order on scientific grounds.

Biden, who has rolled back some of Trump's other more restrictive policies, has taken increasing criticism from some top Democrats for keeping the policy.

Homeland Security officials said they are planning for as many as 18,000 arrivals daily, a number that they cautioned was simply to prepare for all possible outcomes, not projections. But there have been no major changes to how migrants are processed at the U.S.-Mexico border and no increase in holding facilities for them. The immigration court backlog continues to soar to more than 1.7 million cases.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

FDA advisers side against exploratory medicine to fight ALS

From news services

WASHINGTON — Federal health advisers Wednesday narrowly ruled against an experimental drug for the debilitating illness known as Lou Gehrig's disease, a potential setback for patient groups who have lobbied for the medication's approval.

Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration voted 6-4 that a single study from Amylyx Pharmaceuticals failed to establish the drug's effectiveness in treating amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, a deadly neurodegenerative disease.

"I think it would be a disservice to the patients and their families to approve a treatment that is of uncertain benefit," said Dr. Kenneth Fischbeck of the National Institutes of Health. "It gets in the way of developing truly effective treatments if it turns out not to be effective."

Fischbeck and other panelists said they hoped results of a larger study now underway would provide more evidence.

Their vote is not binding; the FDA will make the final decision on whether to grant approval by July. The vote could be used to bolster FDA's negative review published earlier in the week that criticized Amylyx's mid-stage study for its small size, missing data and questionable statistical analysis.

The FDA, however, has also emphasized the need for "regulatory flexibility" when reviewing drugs for fatal diseases like ALS. And the close vote could tip the agency toward approval, given the lack of options available.

Typically, FDA approval requires two large studies or one study with a "very persuasive" effect on survival.

ALS destroys nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord needed to walk, talk, swallow and — eventually — breathe. There is no cure and most people die within three to five years of their first symptoms.

Even if the FDA rejects the Amylyx combo drug, it may not be the end of the road for the treatment.

Amylyx is conducting a late-stage, 600-patient study required to seek European approval. If those results, expected in 2024, show the drug extends life, the company could resubmit to the FDA and potentially win approval.

Call for a boost: President Joe Biden receives a fourth dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine Wednesday in the South Court Auditorium at the White House. Before getting his second booster shot, Biden, 79, urged Congress to pass further legislation to provide billions of dollars in additional funding to fight the pandemic. **ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY**

Middle East cease-fire: A Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis began observing Wednesday a unilateral cease-fire in the yearslong war, despite the rebels' rejection of the proposal.

The Saudi-proposed pause in fighting ahead of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan began at 6 a.m., following an announcement late Tuesday. There was no immediate independent confirmation on whether the hostilities had paused.

Houthi official Mohammed al-Bukaiti rejected the cease-fire offer, citing the Saudi-led coalition's continued closure of the airport in Sanaa, Yemen's capital, and its restrictions on the country's ports.

Michigan kidnap plot: A man accused of leading a plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was "antigovernment" and believed officials were out to "line their own pockets," his longtime companion testified Wednesday before prosecutors rested their case.

Chastity Knight, of Bear, Delaware, spoke to jurors on the 13th day of trial in federal court in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

She was asked about Barry Croft Jr.'s tattoos, including one with three stars — popular among extremists — and his attitude toward government.

"He was antigovernment" Knight said. "He just thought the government's not for him. The government doesn't help the people out. They like to line their own pockets."

The jury has heard key evidence from undercover FBI agents and an informant who was inside the group for months and made secret recordings.

Two men who pleaded guilty provided critical testimony last week, including a desire for national chaos if Whitmer, a Democrat, could be abducted from her vacation home before the 2020 election.

Croft, Adam Fox, Daniel Harris and Brandon Caserta are charged with a kidnapping conspiracy.

Fox, Croft and Harris face additional charges related to explosives.

Manson family member: California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday blocked parole for Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten, reversing a panel's recommendation that she be freed after spending a half-century in prison.

Van Houten, 72, "currently poses an unreasonable danger to society if released from prison at this time," Newsom said in his parole review.

It was the fifth time that a California governor has rejected her release.

Her attorney, Rich Pfeiffer, said the decision will be appealed.

Van Houten is serving a life sentence for helping Manson and others kill Los Angeles grocer Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary, in August 1969. Van Houten was 19 when she and other cult members fatally stabbed the LaBiancas and smeared the couple's blood on the walls.

The day before, other Manson followers, not including Van Houten, killed pregnant actress Sharon Tate and four others.

UK maternity scandal: A review into a scandal-hit British hospital group concluded Wednesday that persistent failures in maternity care contributed to the avoidable deaths of more than 200 babies over two decades.

The review began in 2018 after two families that had lost their babies in the care of Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust in western England campaigned for an inquiry.

Former senior midwife Donna Ockenden led an investigation into almost 1,600 incidents between 2000 and 2019, including cases of stillbirth, neonatal death, maternal death and other severe complications in mothers and newborns.

The investigation found that 131 stillbirths, 70 neonatal deaths and nine maternal deaths either could have or would have been avoided with better care.

Ockenden said Wednesday that hospital management "failed to investigate, failed to learn and failed to improve."

SKorea rocket launch: South Korea said it conducted its first successful launch of a solid-fuel rocket Wednesday in what it called a major step toward acquiring a space surveillance capability amid rising animosities with rival North Korea.

The launch came six days after North Korea carried out its first intercontinental ballistic missile test since 2017 in an apparent attempt to expand its weapons arsenal and increase pressure on the Biden administration.

The South Korean-built solid-propellant rocket soared into the sky before releasing a dummy satellite in space, according to photos released by Seoul's Defense Ministry.

South Korea has no military reconnaissance satellites of its own and depends on U.S. spy satellites to monitor strategic facilities in North Korea.

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BUSINESS
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Poland takes steps to end all imports of Russian oil

Germany issues warning on natural gas levels and calls on people to conserve

By Monika Scislowska and Frank Jordans
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Poland announced steps Wednesday to end all Russian oil imports by year's end, while Germany issued a warning about natural gas levels and called on people to conserve, new signs of how Russia's war in Ukraine has escalated tensions about securing energy supplies to power Europe.

Poland, which has taken in millions of Ukrainian refugees, has taken the lead in the European Union on swiftly cutting off Russian fossil fuels. The 27-nation bloc has declined to sanction energy because it depends on Moscow for the fuel needed for cars, electricity, heating and industry, but it has announced proposals to wean itself off those supplies.

"We are presenting the most radical plan in Europe for departing from Russian oil by the end of this year," Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said at a news conference.

It comes a day after Poland said it was banning Russian coal imports, expected by May. Morawiecki says Poland will take steps to become "independent" of Russian supplies and is calling on other European Union countries to "walk away" as well. He argues that money paid for Russia's oil and gas is fueling its war machine.

While some in Europe are calling for an immediate boycott of all Russian oil and natural gas, the EU plans to reduce Russian gas imports by two-thirds by the end of the year and eliminate them before 2030. In the meantime, rattled energy markets have pushed up already high oil and natural gas prices for Europeans and others worldwide.

The EU is turning to investments in renewable energy as a long-term fix but also is scrambling to shore up alternative sources of fossil fuels, including a new agreement with the U.S. to receive more liquefied natural gas, or LNG, that arrives by ship.

Poland is expanding an LNG terminal to receive deliveries from Qatar, the U.S., Norway and other exporters. A new Baltic pipeline bringing gas from Norway is expected to open by the end of the year. It also has been reducing dependence on Russian oil through contracts with Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and Norway and is considering imports from Kazakhstan.

Germany, the EU's biggest economy and one of the most reliant on Russia's natural gas, has signed deals with several suppliers of LNG, which is shipped to neighboring European countries and then pumped in. Officials say they aim to end the use of Russian oil and coal this year and natural gas by mid-2024.

It has not stopped the fears about the coming months. Germany issued an early warning over gas supplies and called on companies and households to conserve amid concerns that Russia could cut off gas deliveries unless it is paid in rubles.

Western nations have rejected that demand, arguing it would undermine sanctions over the war.

Germany's gas storages are filled to about 25% capacity.

Welder Ostap Datsenko works on a donated pickup truck Sunday at a workshop in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv. **NARIMAN EL-MOFTY/AP**

Welders part of the war effort

Volunteer workers in Ukraine transform donated vehicles into military transportation

By Cara Anna
Associated Press

LVIV, Ukraine — A strawberry-scented air freshener dangled from one of the latest Ukrainian military vehicles to be driven off to fight in the war.

In a welding shop in Ukraine's western city of Lviv, workers were adding steel plates to a donated pickup truck so a volunteer could drive it to the front.

"Our victory depends on us," said Ostap Datsenko, a welder who is part of a huge volunteer effort playing a role in Ukraine's resistance, with support from the diaspora.

But he hadn't expected to see so much of the war, or its shrapnel, so soon.

He had been standing on the truck hurrying to finish the job before sunset Saturday when he heard a noise.

Datsenko looked up and saw an object whizzing through the air.

"It was pretty large, but I've never seen rockets before," he said. "Then I heard a huge explosion."

The Russian airstrike hit a factory connected to the military, and the blast sent Datsenko tumbling. Dazed, he hurried into the garage's makeshift bunker in the grease pit.

The following day, he was back at work for the finishing touches on the truck before it was driven Monday to eastern Ukraine, along with three other vehicles.

The truck's camouflage paint job was complete.

The welders also put bars in the back to help support a machine gun.

The 31-year-old Datsenko, his clothes streaked with oil, said he was ready like all Ukrainian men to be called up to fight. But he had no combat experience, meaning his time is yet to come.

Until then, he said, "I'm doing what I can."

Ukraine's military appears to have fought Russia's much larger army into a stalemate on some fronts, which has surprised many observers. One of Ukraine's weapons is a parallel army of volunteers who are busy mobilizing funding and supplies ranging from body armor to cigarettes. Others make the military connections.

In Lviv, which had been relatively far from the war until the airstrikes last Saturday, the welding shop looked for ways to help. It started off making "hedgehogs," or the metal barriers placed at checkpoints and around some sensitive facilities.

Then they heard the call for cars.

"Any vehicles are very much in demand on the front line" by commanders, said Artem Pastushyna, a 27-year-old welder with metal nuts glinting in his earlobes.

Only a small number of the vehicles have been adapted with steel plates and camouflage, he said. The need is too big and there's little time.

"Many cars from Europe are driven directly to the front line," Pastushnya said.

The truck was the first vehicle that the welding shop has adapted, he said, and he hopes they'll do many more.

Until then, the welding shop is paying new attention to its grease pit after Saturday's airstrikes. They had expected an attack sometime but not one so big, Datsenko said.

In the pit-turned-bunker, accessed by a wooden ladder, an empty pizza box indicated that the workers had spent more time there than usual.

"Until yesterday, it was only a basement," Datsenko said. "Now we realize it would be wise to have more stuff there."

Amazon, Ala. union organizers face off again

By Anne D'Innocenzio, Haleluya Hadero and Jay Reeves
Associated Press

BESSEMER, Ala. — For union organizers at an Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama, the second time could be a charm.

After a crushing defeat last year, when a majority of workers voted against forming a union, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union is hoping for a different outcome in a do-over election. The National Labor Relations Board on Monday began counting mail-in ballots sent to 6,100 workers in early February. Results could come as early as Thursday.

If the vote goes in favor of the union, it would be Amazon's first in the U.S.

Like last time, the RWDSU is driving the union campaign in Bessemer. Vaccines have made it easier for organizers to do face-to-face meetings during the pandemic as opposed to the texts, emails and phone calls they relied on the first time around.

"It's been easier to spread the message this time, and we've had more support inside the building," said Dale Wyatt, an Amazon worker at the Bessemer facility who's assisting in the union push.

Amazon has had a chance to regroup as well after the NLRB determined that the company unfairly influenced last year's election. The country's second-largest private employer continues to hammer the message that it invests in both pay and benefits for its workers. Regular full-time employees in Bessemer earn at least $15.80 an hour, higher than the estimated $14.55 per hour on average in the city based on an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau. They also get health care as well as a 401(k) with company match.

Amazon has also made some changes but still kept a controversial U.S. Postal Service mailbox that was key in the NLRB's decision to invalidate last year's vote.

Labor activists say the company is still relying on consultants and managers to hold mandatory staff meetings on why unions are a bad idea. An Amazon spokesperson said the meetings allow employees to ask questions and learn what a union "could mean for them and their day-to-day life working at Amazon."

Slower US growth is likely after downgrade

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy ended 2021 by expanding at a healthy 6.9% annual pace from October through December, the government reported Wednesday, a slight downgrade from its previous estimates.

For all of 2021, the nation's gross domestic product — its total output of goods and services — jumped by 5.7%, the fastest calendar-year growth since a 7.2% surge in 1984 in the aftermath of a brutal recession.

Previously, the government estimated growth in last year's fourth quarter was 7%. The small downgrade reflected a smaller increase in consumer spending and fewer exports, the Commerce Department said.

Looking ahead, however, growth is likely to slow sharply this year, particularly in the first three months 2022. Higher inflation will likely weigh on consumer spending as Americans take a dimmer view of the economy. Home sales have fallen as the Federal Reserve has started pushing up borrowing costs, leading to a sharp increase in mortgage rates. Exports may weaken as overseas economies are disrupted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

For the January-March quarter of this year, the biggest drag will be a sharp reduction in the amount of goods businesses restock on their shelves and warehouses. In last year's fourth quarter, companies engaged in a huge buildup of inventories, in an effort to get ahead of supply chain problems for the winter holidays.

That inventory restocking added nearly 6 percentage points to fourth quarter growth, a boost that wasn't repeated in the first three months of this year. And solid consumer spending likely pulled in more imports in the first quarter, economists forecast.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Biden eyes EV mineral mining

WASHINGTON — Facing higher oil prices after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, President Joe Biden is looking at invoking the Defense Production Act this week to increase the mining of critical minerals for the batteries used in electric vehicles, according to a person familiar with the White House plans.

Greater federal support for alternatives to fossil fuels would reduce the leverage of Russian President Vladimir Putin and others on matters of U.S. national and economic security, though it reflects a long-term play rather than an immediate response to the economic damage caused by the war.

The move could provide a meaningful financial incentive to develop a domestic supply chain for electric vehicles.

BioNTech posts $3.6B net profit

BERLIN — BioNTech, the German pharmaceutical company that teamed with Pfizer to develop the first widely used COVID-19 vaccine, on Wednesday reported strong quarterly earnings growth on pandemic-fueled demand.

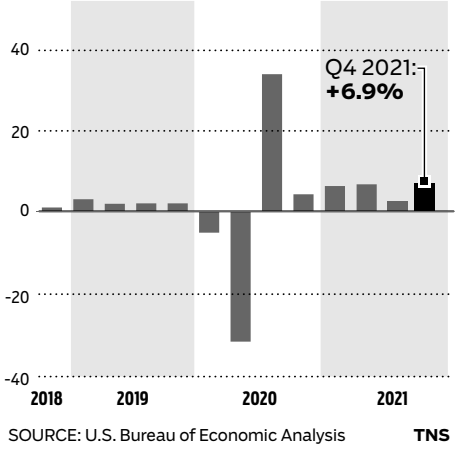
The company posted net profit of nearly $3.6 billion for the final three months of 2021, up from $409 million in the same period the previous year.

Quarterly revenue rose to $6.1 billion from $384 million previously.

Vaccinations with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, marketed as Comirnaty, started in December 2020. BioNTech, based in the city of Mainz near Frankfurt, said about 2.6 billion doses of the vaccine had been delivered last year.

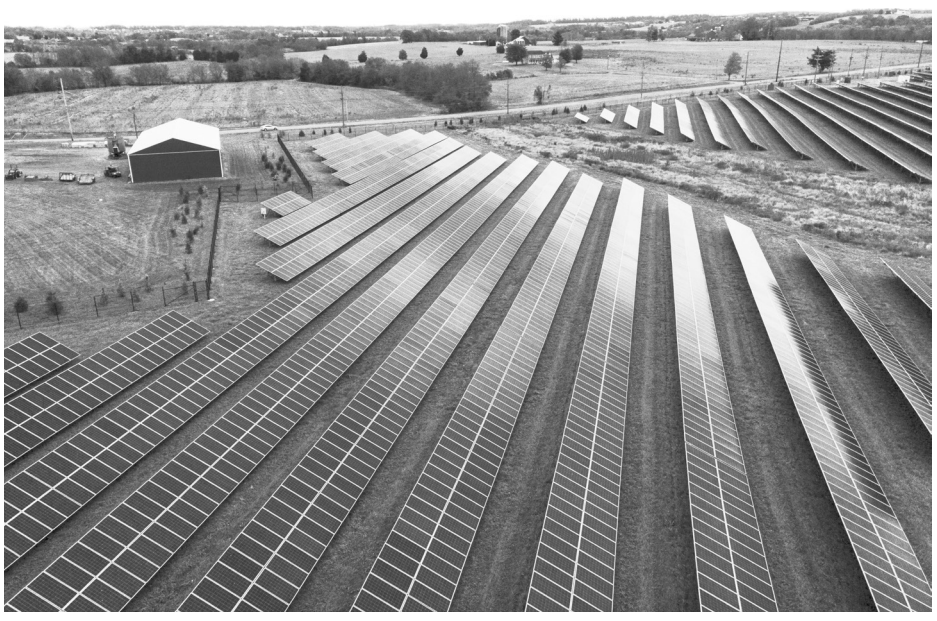
GDP

Percent change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted, advance estimate:



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis TNS

BUSINESS



Solar panels from Southeast Asia are the focus of a Commerce Department investigation. Above, solar panels are seen on farmland in Thurmont, Maryland. **JULIO CORTEZ/AP 2021**

Commerce inquiry imperils solar industry, advocates say

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a decision that could dramatically undercut President Joe Biden's ambitious climate goals, the Commerce Department said it is investigating whether imports of solar panels from Southeast Asia are circumventing anti-dumping rules that limit imports from China.

Clean energy leaders said the investigation — which could result in retroactive tariffs of up to 240% — would severely hinder the U.S. solar industry, leading to thousands of layoffs and imperiling up to 80% of planned solar projects in the U.S. Such an outcome would jeopardize one of Biden's top clean energy goals and run counter to his administration's push for renewable energy such as wind and solar power.

Monday's decision by the Commerce Department "signals that the Biden administration's talk of supporting solar energy is empty rhetoric," said Heather Zichal, CEO of the American Clean Power Association, a clean-energy group.

Zichal, who was White House energy adviser under President Barack Obama, called on Biden to reverse the decision.

The Commerce investigation follows a complaint by Auxin Solar, a small California-based manufacturer that said solar panels assembled in four Southeast Asian nations — Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam — are circumventing rules intended to block imports of solar cells and panels from China.

The White House declined to comment, but a Commerce spokesman said the agency will "conduct an open and transparent investigation to determine whether circumvention" of U.S. trade law is occurring.

"This inquiry is just a first step ... and no additional duties will be imposed at this time," said spokesman Jeremy Edwards.

Auxin Solar CEO Mamun Rashid said he was grateful that Commerce officials recognized the need to investigate what he called "pervasive backdoor dumping" of solar panels by China.

Solar manufacturers in smaller Asian countries use parts produced by Chinese companies as a way to keep costs down while skirting steep antidumping and countervailing tariffs on Chinese goods, he said.

"For years, Chinese solar producers have refused to fairly price their products in the U.S. and have gone to significant lengths to continue undercutting American manufacturers and workers by establishing ... operations in countries not covered by those duties," Rashid said. "Fair trade and enforcement of our trade laws are essential to rebuilding the American solar supply chain and making solar (panels) in America again."

The Commerce Department action comes weeks after Biden extended tariffs imposed by former President Donald Trump on most solar panels imported from China and other countries.

In a nod to his efforts to combat climate change and boost clean energy, Biden excluded tariffs on some panels used in large-scale utility projects.

Pratt & Whitney opens contract talks with union

By Kenneth R. Gosselin and Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

East Hartford-based Pratt & Whitney and the union representing 3,000 of the jet-engine maker's employees in Connecticut opened bargaining Wednesday for a new contract to replace the one expiring May 1.

The negotiations between Pratt and Locals 700 and 1746, District 26 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers are expected to end with a contract vote on May 1.

In a joint statement from Pratt and the union, the two sides said there will be no media statements during negotiations about the issues at the bargaining table.

The current contract dates to 2016.

The contract talks come as Pratt is recovering from a steep downturn caused by COVID-19 that grounded many of its customers' airline fleets.

Pratt made significant workforce reductions during the pandemic that it will not reverse as customers return to pre-pandemic airline business.

Pratt's parent company, Waltham, Mass.-based Raytheon Technologies Corp said in January 2021 it was cutting 16,500 commercial aviation jobs worldwide at Pratt and Collins Aerospace, a 20% drop. In Connecticut, the job losses amounted to 450.

As of last November Pratt, with manufacturing sites in East Hartford and Middletown, employed more than 11,000 workers in Connecticut. It generated sales last year of $18.15 billion, up 8% from 2020 during the worst of the pandemic.

Greg Hayes, chief executive officer of Raytheon, said in February that Pratt may not deliver about 70 engines to Airbus in the first quarter due to casting shortages, highlighting persistent supply chain problems. The shortage will hold down growth in the first quarter ending Thursday, he said.

Pratt is set to open a casting foundry and airfoil production facility in Asheville, North Carolina. Raytheon said it expects lower costs to generate $180 million in annual savings.

Raytheon announced in February that Shane G. Eddy, senior vice president and chief operations officer, was appointed president of Pratt. He succeeds Christopher T. Calio who was elevated to chief operating officer of Raytheon.

Raytheon said in February it's the target of a U.S. Department of Justice probe into the hiring practices at its aviation divisions, Pratt and Collins Aerospace.

The defense and aviation giant said in a regulatory filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission it was recently advised that it's a target of the investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice. It says it's cooperating with the investigation.

The investigation has focused on alleged hiring restrictions between and among jet engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney and suppliers of outsourced engineering services, Raytheon said. The subpoena also included requests regarding Collins Aerospace, Raytheon said.

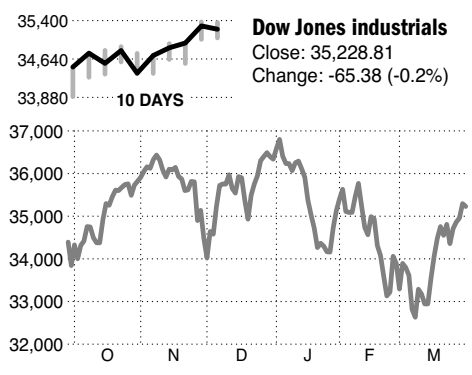
Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com. Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Pratt & Whitney opened contract talks Wednesday with the union representing 3,000 machinist and aerospace workers. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

MARKET RUNDOWN

Thursday, March 31, 2022

DOW 35,228.81 -65.38 ▼
10-YR T-BOND 2.36% -.04 ▼
GOLD $1,933.50 +21.30 ▲



Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	35,228.81	-65.38	-3.05%
DOW Trans.	16,546.85	-171.69	+.42%
DOW Util.	1,042.10	+8.78	+6.25%
NYSE Comp.	16,932.76	-82.00	-1.35%
Nasdaq Comp.	14,442.27	-177.36	-7.69%
S&P 500	4,602.45	-29.15	-3.44%
S&P 400	2,732.60	-41.12	-3.85%
Wilshire 5000	46,320.43	-396.72	-4.42%
Russell 2000	2,091.07	-42.03	-6.87%

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	107.82	104.24	+43.36%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	5.61	5.26	+50.27%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.33	3.20	+49.22%
METALS	**CLOSE**	**PREV.**	**YTD**
Gold (oz)	1,933.50	1,912.20	+5.80%
Silver (oz)	25.10	24.72	+7.61%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. $	U.S. $ in ForEx
Britain	1.3136	.7613
Canada	.8014	1.2478
China	.1575	6.3477
Euro	1.1160	.8961
Japan	.008212	121.78
Mexico	.050249	19.9009

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.50	3.50
3-mo. T-Bill	0.56	0.50
6-mo. T-Bill	1.03	0.93
5-yr T-Note	2.44	2.34
10-yr T-Note	2.36	2.31
30-yr T-Bond	2.48	2.52

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	14,606.05	-214.28	-1.45%	-8.05%
London	7,578.75	+41.50	+.55%	+2.63%
Hong Kong	22,232.03	+304.40	+1.39%	-4.98%
Nikkei	28,027.25	-225.17	-.80%	-2.66%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	25.68	-3.76	-5.6
AT&T Inc (T)	24.14	+.15	-1.9
Adagio Therapeutics (ADGI)	5.02	+1.17	-30.9
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	119.22	-4.01	-17.2
Akebia Therapeutics (AKBA)	.83	-1.61	-63.3
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	18.05	-.11	+.5
Amphenol Corp (APH)	76.71	-.65	-12.3
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	7.09	-.12	-9.3
Apple Inc (AAPL)	177.77	-1.19	+.1
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	46.83	+.19	-6.1
Bank of America (BAC)	43.00	-.44	-3.3
Barnes Group (B)	40.65	-.64	-12.7
BitNile Holdings Inc (NILE)	.83	-.04	-30.3
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2327.99	-43.93	-3.0
Borqs Technologies (BRQS)	.23	+.01	-38.2
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	73.72	+.49	+18.2
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	103.55	-1.13	+.4
Carnival Corp (CCL)	19.60	-.33	-2.6
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	47.57	-.51	-12.3
Charter Communic (CHTR)	570.12	-2.21	-12.6
Cigna Corp (CI)	245.83	+2.49	+7.1
Citigroup (C)	54.97	-1.50	-9.0
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	47.69	-.09	-5.2
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	2.94	-.12	-41.0
Disney (DIS)	140.96	-1.42	-9.0
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	114.70	-.85	-10.0
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	11.53	+.48	+40.1
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.75	-.91	+1.7
Eversource Energy (ES)	88.64	+.86	-2.6
Ford Motor (F)	17.27	-.48	-16.9
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.87	-.37	+12.9
Gen Dynamics (GD)	244.32	+3.23	+17.2
Gen Electric (GE)	94.58	-.07	+.1
Ginkgo Bioworks Hldg (DNA)	4.22	-.37	-49.2
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	73.52	+.14	+6.5
Honeywell Intl (HON)	196.54	-1.00	-5.7
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	14.04	-.02	-11.8
Hycroft Mining Holdg (HYMC)	2.39	-.20	+289.3
IQIYI Inc (IQ)	5.04	+.02	+10.5
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	1.60	+.06	-25.2
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	24.97	-.14	-1.3
Intel Corp (INTC)	51.43	-.82	-.1
Kaman (KAMN)	43.59	-1.23	+1.0
Keycorp (KEY)	23.01	-.62	-.5
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	66.98	-1.16	-1.9
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	43.16	-.45	-3.8
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	227.85	-2.01	-32.3
MetLife Inc (MET)	71.63	+.12	+14.6
Micron Tech (MU)	79.16	-2.89	-15.0
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	313.86	-1.55	-6.7
Mullen Automotive (MULN)	3.03	+.68	-42.1
NanoVibronix Inc (NAOV)	1.11	+.21	+6.7
Nielsen Hldgs plc (NLSN)	27.03	+.31	+31.8
Novartis AG (NVS)	87.96	+.45	+.6
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	276.90	-9.66	-5.9
Occid Petl (OXY)	57.48	+.69	+98.3
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	77.75	-.90	-10.7
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	13.88	-.32	-23.8
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	20.32	-1.14	+14.0
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	52.44	-.30	-11.2
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	5.33	-.20	-19.6
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	120.30	-.56	+11.1
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	69.94	+.84	+4.8
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	100.83	-.25	+17.2
Robinhood Markets A (HOOD)	14.56	-1.35	-18.0
Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.00	-.84	-.4
Romeo Power Inc (RMO)	1.58	+.17	-56.7
SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	75.97	-2.68	-7.3
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	9.77	-.37	-38.2
Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	7.10	+.10	+52.4
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	143.08	-3.29	-24.1
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.75	-.54	-2.3
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.72	-.01	+24.2
Tellurian Inc (TELL)	5.44	+.32	+76.6
Terex Corp (TEX)	36.99	-1.23	-15.8
Tilray Brands Inc (TLRY)	8.14	-.18	+15.8
Travelers Cos (TRV)	185.55	+1.74	+18.6
United Rentals (URI)	359.19	-6.01	+8.1
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	520.82	+10.09	+3.7
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	242.53	-4.84	-18.4
Voya Financial (VOYA)	67.51	-.82	+1.8
Webster Financial (WBS)	57.69	-1.77	+3.3
Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	50.11	-1.49	+4.4
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1102.32	+12.40	+8.7
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	62.38	-.72	+26.4
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	76.25	-2.05	-1.5
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.46	-.11	-9.6

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OPINION

Biden's gaffes shouldn't drive US policies on Russia

Jonah Goldberg

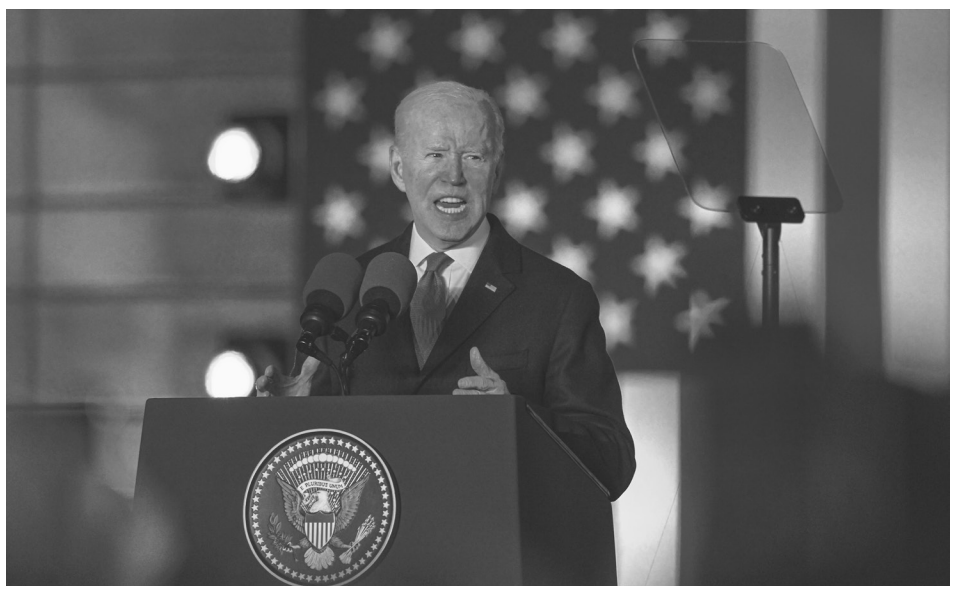
An enormous amount of effort and planning went into crafting a single coherent message, and in one instant it was all for naught. I'm not talking about Will Smith slapping Chris Rock during Sunday night's Oscars, but President Joe Biden's similarly unscripted call for regime change in Russia.

On Saturday in Warsaw, Poland, Biden delivered a speech intended to underscore NATO's resolve and America's leadership in the Ukraine crisis. When he was done, Biden ad-libbed nine words that sent allied governments — and White House aides — into a frenzy: "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power."

In one sense, I'm sympathetic. Everyone, especially Ukrainians and Russians, would be better off if Russian President Vladimir Putin wasn't in power. He's a force for evil and hostile to America and our values. Graded morally and emotionally, Biden's outburst was a classic "Kinsley gaffe" — named after Michael Kinsley, who said, "A gaffe is when a politician tells the truth — some obvious truth he isn't supposed to say."

But because Biden's heart was in the right place, a lot of people are denying that his mouth wasn't.

Much of it has to do with America's Trump hangover. For instance, the Washington Post's Max Boot rushed to Biden's defense, writing that Biden's speech was "pitch-perfect" while Donald Trump's 2017 Warsaw speech was a horror. He acknowledges that Biden's nine words were a gaffe, but thinks history might vindicate the president the way it vindicated Ronald Reagan's attack on the Soviet Union as an "evil empire" in 1983. Boot concludes, "I would rather have a president who is fearless in calling out Putin's war crimes than one who toadies to the Russian tyrant."



President Biden delivers a speech Saturday in Warsaw, Poland. **OMAR MARQUES/GETTY**

Unfortunately, none of this is really a defense. "What about Trump?" is no more a defense of Biden's mistakes than "What about Obama?" was a defense of Trump's. If two wrongs don't make a right, neither do Trump's (myriad) mistakes make Biden's gaffe savvy.

Similarly, the whole point of his prepared remarks, no doubt crafted in consultation with allies, was to signal not just NATO's unified resolve but Biden's surefootedness in this crisis. The ad-libbed bit contradicted or overshadowed the allegedly perfect pitch — by unsettling allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and bolstering Russian propaganda. How "fearless" can Biden's remarks be if they were walked back for fear people took him literally?

Simply put, this wasn't a Kinsley gaffe in the way that matters most: It wasn't policy. When Reagan said the U.S.S.R. was an "evil empire," it was a deliberate statement. The opposite is true here.

The more fundamental problem isn't one gaffe but rather a whole pattern. Biden told the 82nd Airborne forces stationed in Poland that they'd see the devastation in Ukraine "when you're there." Aides had to clarify that U.S. troops would not, in fact, be going to Ukraine. Biden also said in Warsaw that we would respond "in kind" if Russia used chemical weapons. Nope, clarified national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

Biden long ago acknowledged he was a "gaffe machine," and throughout his presidency the White House has had to correct the plain meaning of his utterances. Asked about an incident when activists chased Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., into a bathroom, Biden said, "I don't think they're appropriate tactics, but it happens to everybody. ... It's part of the process." White House press secretary Jen Psaki subsequently tried to convince the press his real position was that "he believes that what happened to her crossed the line and was absolutely unacceptable and flat out wrong to violate someone's personal space in a bathroom."

From suggesting the 2022 midterm election results would be illegitimate if his election reforms failed to pass, to implying that a "minor incursion" into Ukraine by Russia wouldn't be that big a deal, there are now dozens of examples of the administration retconning Biden's verbal stumbles. This pattern hit a new low Monday, when Biden — using prepared talking points captured by photographers — insisted, "I'm not walking anything back." Which made his aides' various walk-backs seem even odder.

But what's more worrisome than denying the reality of Biden's verbal mistakes is making his verbal mistakes reality.

For instance, initially the White House was rightly careful to not call Putin a war criminal, not because he isn't one — he obviously is — but because saying so has profound policy implications. The policy suddenly changed when Biden responded off the cuff to a shouted question from a reporter, saying, "I think he is a war criminal."

At first, Psaki said Biden was merely "speaking from his heart." But soon it became the administration's official position.

I'm open to that position, but on this and many other issues, I'd like America's policies to be informed by something more deliberate and considered than a gaffe.

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Yes, there is a clash of civilizations

Ross Douthat

In 1996, political scientist Samuel Huntington offered several strong claims about the post-Cold War world.

Global politics was becoming not just "multipolar" but "multicivilizational," he argued, with competing powers modernizing along different cultural lines, not simply converging with the liberal West. "The balance of power among civilizations" was shifting, and the West was entering a period of relative decline. A "civilization-based world order" was emerging, in which societies "sharing cultural affinities" were more likely to group themselves into alliances or blocs. And the would-be universalism of the West was setting the stage for sustained conflict with rival civilizations, most notably with China and the Islamic world.

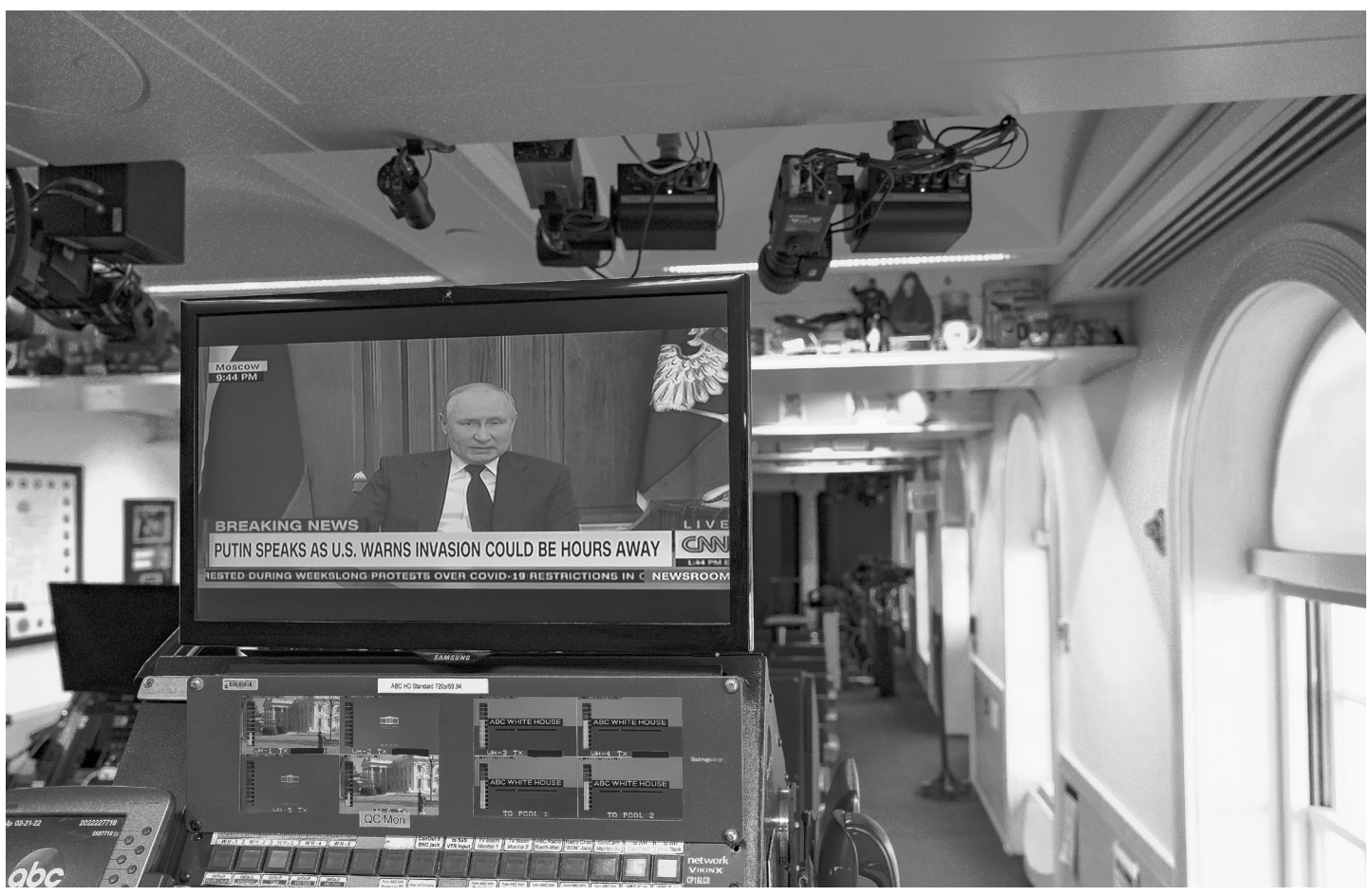
These claims were the backbone of Huntington's book "The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order," which was seen as a sweeping interpretive alternative to Francis Fukuyama's "end of history" thesis, with its vision of liberal democracy as the horizon toward which post-Cold War societies were likely to converge.

The Huntington thesis would seem ripe for new attention in the wake of Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, the surprisingly unified Western response, the more uncertain reactions from China and India. But more often lately Huntington has been invoked either warily, on the grounds that Putin wants a clash of civilizations and we shouldn't give it to him, or in dismissal or critique, with the idea being that his theory of world politics has actually been disproved by Putin's attempt to restore a Greater Russia.

That's the argument offered, for instance, by Olivier Roy, the French scholar of Islam, in a recent interview with Le Nouvel Observateur. Roy describes the Ukraine war as "definitive proof (because we have many others) that the 'Clash of Civilizations' theory does not work" — mostly because Huntington had predicted that countries that share Orthodox Christianity would be unlikely to go to war with one another, but instead here we have Putin's Russia making war, and not for the first time, against a largely Orthodox Christian neighbor, even as he accommodates Muslim constituencies inside Russia.

Writing for the new outsider journal Compact, a would-be home for radicals of the left and right, Christopher Caldwell also invokes Huntington's seemingly falsified predictions about Orthodox Christian unity. But then he also offers a different reason to reject Huntington's application to our moment, suggesting that the civilizational model has been a useful framework for understanding events over the last 20 years, but lately we have been moving back to a world of explicitly ideological conflict — one defined by a Western elite preaching a universal gospel of "neoliberalism" and "wokeness," and various regimes and movements that are trying to resist it.

Both of those contemporary arguments offer weaker interpretive frameworks than the one that Huntington provided. No theory from 25 or 30 years ago is going to be a perfect guide to world affairs. But if you want to understand the direction of global politics right now, the Huntington thesis is more relevant than ever.



A television in the press briefing room of the White House airs Russian President Vladimir Putin's remarks on Feb. 21. **ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY**

To see why, cast your mind back to the years just after his book was published — the turn of the millennium, the George W. Bush and early Obama years. In those days Huntington's analysis was often invoked to explain the rise of jihadi terrorism, the Islamist resistance to the power of the West.

But in every other theater of the world, his thesis looked relatively dubious. American power didn't seem to be obviously declining. China was integrating with the Western world and liberalizing to some degree. Russia in Putin's first term seemed to aspire to alliances with America and Europe. In India the forces of Hindu nationalism weren't ascendant yet. And even in the Muslim world, there were repeated moments, that seemed to promise 1989-style democratic revolutions followed by convergence with the West.

The last decade, on the other hand, has made Huntington's predictions of civilizational divergence look much more prescient. China's one-party meritocracy, Putin's uncrowned czardom, the post-Arab Spring triumph of dictatorship and monarchy over religious populism in the Middle East, the Hindutva populism transforming Indian democracy — these aren't just all indistinguishable forms of "autocracy" but culturally distinctive developments that fit well with Huntington's typology.

And then, just as tellingly, the region where this divergence has been weaker, the post-Cold War wave of democratization more resilient, is Latin America, about which Huntington acknowledged some uncertainty whether it deserved its own civilizational category, or whether it essentially belonged with the United States and Western Europe. (He chose the former; the latter seems more plausible today.)

Then what about Huntington's specific predictions about Ukraine, raised by Roy and Caldwell in critique? Well, there he did get something wrong: Though he accurately foresaw internal Ukrainian divisions, the split between the Orthodox and Russian-speaking east and the more Catholic and Western-leaning west, his assumption that civilizational alignments would trump national ones hasn't been borne out in Putin's war.

That fits a larger pattern: None of the emerging non-Western great powers have yet built grand alliances based on civilizational affinities, meaning that the third of the four big Huntingtonian predictions appears the weakest today. He imagined, for instance, that a rising China might be able to peacefully integrate Taiwan and maybe even draw Japan into its sphere of influence. Instead, wherever smaller countries are somehow "torn" between some other civilization and the liberal West, they usually prefer an American alliance.

This speaks to the West's resilient appeal. But it doesn't mean that liberalism is poised for some sweeping return to the position it occupied when American strength was at its height. None of the ambiguous and ambivalent reactions to Putin's war outside the Euro-American alliance suggest a sudden springtime for the liberal-international world order.

Still less does the conflict in Ukraine mean that the export of American-style "wokeness," however much it may preoccupy Putin, is poised to become the focal point for a new global ideological conflict. Quite the reverse: Most of wokeness feels inward-looking and parochial, a specifically Western and especially Anglo-American response to disappointments with the neoliberal period. Rather than offering a universal message, its key slogans and ideas really make sense only inside America and Europe.

Interestingly, the wokeness wars reveal another key thing Huntington may have gotten wrong. His main fear for the Western world in an age of civilizational competition was that it would abandon its own cultural distinctiveness and that multiculturalism especially would be its undoing — that the United States might even fragment into English- and Spanish-speaking enclaves under the pressure of mass immigration. And some of the recent convergences between North American and Latin American politics — the growing appeal of right-wing populism and socialism in the United States, the rise of evangelicalism and Pentecostalism in South America — map onto those predictions.

But the battles over wokeness are not necessarily an example of ethnic Balkanization or multiculturalism gone too far. Instead, the current culture war may actually be reducing ethnic polarization in our political parties — drawing some racial minorities rightward, for instance — while resurfacing some of the oldest divides in Anglo-American politics. The woke often seem like heirs of the New England Puritans and the utopian zeal of Yankeedom; their foes are often Southern evangelicals and conservative Catholics and the libertarian descendants of the Scots-Irish; and the stakes in the debates are competing interpretations of the American founding, the Constitution, the Civil War and the settlement of the frontier.

The present American culture war vindicates Huntington in the larger sense, while cutting against one of his fears. Our various battles are a response to a world that no longer takes American hegemony or liberal universalism for granted. But they aren't *yet* a surrender to dissolving forces, a post-American descent. Rather, if If there's going to be a clash of civilizations, the clash inside America is over what kind of civilization ours should be.

Douthat is a columnist for The New York Times.

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March 31, 2022

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All interested parties, both in favor or against said assessment, may appear to be heard.

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk
3/31/22 7181591

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A SUPPLEMENTAL SEWER ASSESSMENT UPON THE BENEFIT OF SEWER AVAILIABILITY ACCRUING TO APPROVED OR CONSTRUCTED RESIDENTIAL UNITS

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

March 31, 2022

The Metropolitan District will hold a public hearing at The Metropolitan District Headquarters located at 555 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 4:00 PM. for the purpose of establishing and levying a supplemental sewer assessment against certain real property and new or expanded buildings or structures approved for construction or constructed thereon known as 38-42 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut and owned by Peabody Unlimited LLC.

All interested parties, both in favor or against said assessment, may appear to be heard.

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk
3/31/22 7181606

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A SUPPLEMENTAL SEWER ASSESSMENT UPON THE BENEFIT OF SEWER AVAILIABILITY ACCRUING TO APPROVED OR CONSTRUCTED RESIDENTIAL UNITS

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

March 31, 2022

The Metropolitan District will hold a public hearing at The Metropolitan District Headquarters located at 555 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 4:00 PM. for the purpose of establishing and levying a supplemental sewer assessment against certain real property and new or expanded buildings or structures approved for construction or constructed thereon known as 50 Morgan Street, Hartford, Connecticut and owned by Shelbourne Axela LLC.

All interested parties, both in favor or against said assessment, may appear to be heard.

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk
3/31/22 7181704

Request for Qualified Contractors
2022 Home Energy Solutions SM Program
Energy Efficiency Programs in Connecticut

Eversource Energy Service Company ("Eversource"), United Illuminating ("UI"), Connecticut Natural Gas ("CNG"), and Southern Connecticut Gas ("SCG") subsidiaries of AVANGRID, Inc., are investor-owned utilities (collectively referred to as "the Companies") in Connecticut. The Companies, as advised by The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board, are responsible for the implementation of cost-effective electric and natural gas weatherization and energy efficiency programs on behalf of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund ("The Fund") delivered through the Energize Connecticut Initiative. As administrators of the Fund, the Companies are soliciting qualified contractors to participate in a Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") for the 2022 Home Energy Solutions program, the Companies' flagship residential energy efficiency program. The RFQ will be released on or around April 25, 2022.
Home Energy Solutions is a residential energy efficiency program that focuses on providing cost-effective in-home services and incentives that allow Connecticut's households to save energy and money without sacrificing comfort. The contractors play a vital role in the success of the Home Energy Solutions program and are expected to follow all prescribed guidelines to maximize the residential customer's energy savings. Selected contractors will be required to engage Connecticut's residential customers using established protocols to assess and directly install these energy efficient services and products. There are twenty-eight Home Energy Solutions vendors participating in 2022. Any vendor that has a current contract with the Companies to provide HES services does not have to participate in this RFQ process and will continue to be eligible to operate in the program as long as minimum program requirements are satisfied.
The certifications and requirements that are necessary to be considered a qualified contractor, with qualified technicians, for purposes of the RFQ, include, but may not be limited to, certifications from the Building Performance Institute for "Building Analyst" and "Envelope Professional", the Environmental Protection Agency's certification for "Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting", the U.S. Department of Energy's Home Energy Score Assessor, Home Improvement Salesperson license and the contractor must have a valid Connecticut Home Improvement Contractor license. In addition, selected contractors will be required to have minimum experience levels and meet the Companies' contractual Terms and Conditions.

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RFQ PROCESS, THE QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR MUST RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO THE EMAIL LISTED BELOW BY April 15, 2022 AT 5:00 PM WIT "HES CONTRACTOR RFQ" IN THE SUBJECT LINE. Please provide the Company name, address, phone number, primary contact name information with a valid email address. The RFQ process will be internet- based and your notification will be through the valid email address that is provided.
E-mail: eeprocurement@eversource.com

Energize Connecticut is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, and your local Electric and Gas Utilities, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills
3/31, 4/1, 4/2 4/3 & 4/4/22 7168073

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 1053 Cromwell Ave. Rocky Hill, CT 06067 to satisfy a lien on April 12th, 2022 at approx. 11:30 am at www.storagetreasures.com.
Cube #B213: Benjamin Cruz,
Cube #B265: Breah Clay-Bay,
Cube #B372: Marcy Peterson,
3/30 & 3/31/22 7175804

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Request for Proposal (RFP)
Small Business Energy Advantage

Eversource Energy Service Company ("Eversource") and United Illuminating ("UI"), Connecticut Natural Gas ("CNG"), and Southern Connecticut Gas ("SCG") subsidiaries of AVANGRID, Inc., referred to as the Companies, as administrators of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, are soliciting proposals from qualified contractors to install energy-efficient equipment measures for existing small business customers through the Small Business Energy Advantage Program (SBEA).

Interested contractors should submit your intent to bid to SBEACT@eversource.com and include your company name, primary contact name, phone number and email no later than Friday, April 8, 2022 after reviewing the program details below. Bid invitations will be coordinated through the Eversource Procurement Department. Interested contractors will need to register in Eversource's sourcing platform, ARIBA, in order to participate in the RFP. Instructions will be provided once you indicate your intent to bid.

Awarded contractors will be required to submit self-generated, qualified leads. They must conduct customer site assessments to evaluate the electrical, natural gas, oil and propane saving opportunities. Contractors shall have the ability to provide detail and coordinate installation for all potential Energy efficiency measures including, but not limited to, weatherization improvements, high-efficiency lighting with controls, advanced thermostats, refrigeration equipment with controls, variable frequency drives for operating equipment, HVAC equipment upgrades and energy management systems. They must also be capable to engage with a customized, internet based system provide by the Companies following training provided to all awarded contractors.

Those contractors submitting a bid will be evaluated on their ability to support the program through a dedicated sales staff plus an in-house team, audit and build projects. In addition, contractors will be asked to submit examples of previous energy efficiency comprehensive projects.

The Companies offer customer incentives for qualified energy-efficient installation services to offset a portion of the project costs. Zero percent, on bill financing is also available for those customers who qualify. Not all utility customers qualify, and these offerings are limited to small businesses as defined by each utility within their program implementation manual.

A bidders conference call will be held on April 8, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. to answer any questions prospective or current program contractors may have. The conference call will be open to qualified contractors willing to operate in Eversource and Avangrid/UI CT service territories.
Energize Connecticut(SM) – Programs funded by a charge on customer energy bills.
3/31, 4/1, 4/2 4/3 & 4/4/22 7167993

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A SUPPLEMENTAL SEWER ASSESSMENT UPON THE BENEFIT OF SEWER AVAILIABILITY ACCRUING TO APPROVED OR CONSTRUCTED RESIDENTIAL UNITS

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
March 31, 2022

The Metropolitan District will hold a public hearing at The Metropolitan District Headquarters located at 555 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 4:00 PM. for the purpose of establishing and levying a supplemental sewer assessment against certain real property and new or expanded buildings or structures approved for construction or constructed thereon known as 170 Ridge Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut and owned by 170 Ridge Road, LLC.

All interested parties, both in favor or against said assessment, may appear to be heard.

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk
3/31/22 7181563

Connecticut

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT
SOUTH MAIN STREET LOW PRESSURE SEWER EXTENSION

Sealed bids for construction of the South Main Street Low Pressure Sewer Construction project for the Town Marlborough, Connecticut (the "Owner"), will be received at the Marlborough Town Hall located at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut in the Town Clerk's Office until 11:00 a.m. prevailing time, on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Faxed or emailed bids will not be accepted. Bids submitted after this date and time will be deemed to be invalid. All bids shall be submitted at the sole cost and expense of the bidder.
The scope of work includes construction of approximately 400 linear feet of low-pressure sewer main, electrical inspections and upgrades, installation of one grinder pump, and HDPE low pressure service piping. The pipeline work includes all fittings, valves, pavement replacement, inlet protection, sediment and erosion control measures, and all other work indicated on the Contract Documents. The estimated total project cost is $200,000. Work on the project shall begin after June 20, 2022.
The Instructions to Bidders, Form of General Bid, Agreement, Plans, Specifications, Performance and Payment Bond, and other Contract Documents may be examined on April 7, 2022, at the following location during normal business hours:
Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., 712 Brook Street, Suite 103, Rocky Hill, Ct
Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available, physical copies or digital versions, through Advanced Reprographics, 50 Corporate Avenue, Plainville, Connecticut 06062,
(860) 410-1020, and through their website at advancedrepro.net. To access the project on the website, go to the Planroom link. Bid Forms and Contract Documents may also be ordered by contacting Advanced Reprographics at the number listed above. Bidders are responsible for all printing and shipping costs, as applicable Any request for interpretation of plans and specifications may be submitted in writing per the requirements listed in the Instructions to Bidders. Bidders can view the site of the work at their own discretion
Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment observed and minimum wages rates to be paid under contract as determined by Connecticut General Statutes 31-53. Wage rates for this project are subject to the minimum wage rates as per the State of Connecticut Labor Department "Prevailing Wage Rate." The bidder is responsible for obtaining work classification not included in the Wage Decisions package included in Section 00830 – Wage Rates. The selected contractor shall furnish a performance bond and payment bond in an amount at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price from a surety company acceptable to the Owner and licensed in the State of Connecticut as stipulated in Section 00700 GENERAL CONDITIONS of these specifications.
The award will be to the lowest, responsible, and eligible bidder. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities in bids and to reject any or all bids. The selected contractor shall furnish a performance bond and a payment bond in amount at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price as stipulated in Section 00520, AGREEMENT, of these specifications.
If the Owner determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver an Agreement, substantially in the form included herewith, and furnish valid Certificates of Insurance and performance and payment bonds to the Owner prior to the start of any work.
The Owner reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Advertisement to Bids at any time if it is in the best interest of the Owner to do so.
It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addenda to this Advertisement for Bids prior to submitting a bid.
This Advertisement for Bids is not binding on the Owner.
This Advertisement for Bids has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.
By submission of a bid, the Bidder agrees that this bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 60 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded after the opening of bids.
This Advertisement for Bids is not binding on the Owner.
The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and encourages the participation of small, disadvantaged, women or minority-owned firms or principals or parties to this Advertisement for Bids.
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT
BY ITS FIRST SELECTMAN
Gregory J. Lowrey, First Selectmen
3/31, 4/8/2022 7180928

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Connecticut

The Capital Region Development Authority ("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the state of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified consultant to provide project coordination services in the Parkville neighborhood. Please use the following link to access the RFP:
https://crdact.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3-22-2022-RFP-ParkvilleDevelopmentCoordinationServices.pdf.
3/26 - 4/25/2022 7177253

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED 2022-23 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET OF THE STEEL POINT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
A public hearing will be held at the offices of the Steel Point Infrastructure Improvement District ("District") at 10 East Main St. Bridgeport, Connecticut 06608, on April 14th 2022 at 5 PM regarding the proposed 2022-23 annual operating budget, including all taxes, fees, rents, benefit assessments and any other charges of the District.
A copy of the proposed 2022-23 annual operating budget is available for public inspection at the District's offices during normal business hours.

President
Robert W. Christoph Jr.

Steel Point Infrastructure Improvement District

7180044

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 868 Flanders Rd. Mystic, CT 06355 to satisfy a lien on April 14th 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at www.storagetreasures.com:
Cube- 331- Whitney Doran
Cube- 401-Whitney Doran
7180701

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 201 Lake Ave Bristol CT 06010 to satisfy a lien on April 14th, 2022 at approx. 1:00pm at the following site [www.storagetreasures.com]
Cube #22 Victor H. Mazuera;
Cube #113 Ray Lewis;
Cube #462 Christine Hafford.
3/31, 4/1/2022 7182134

Car Reviews
Saturdays in MOTORING

Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE
Request for Proposal (RFP) #2023-0902
Healthcare Coalition Coordinator Contractor

The State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health (DPH or the Department), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified applicants to act as the coordinating entity for the State of Connecticut's Healthcare Coalition (HCC), and to serve as the fiduciary and administrative agent. The target population for services provided by the HCC Contractor and as outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) are all communities within the State of Connecticut. HCC Contractor planning and preparedness activities must be inclusive of the state's diverse demographics and address healthcare access issues during an emergency's response and recovery phases.
Respondents to the RFP must register with the State of CT contracting portal at https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/Registration if not already registered. The RFP is available in electronic format on the Department's website at http://www.ct.gov/dph/rfp and the State Contracting Portal https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/BidBoard (go to CTsource bid board, filter by "Department of Public Health"). Submission instructions including contact information and deadlines are included in the Request for Proposal. Questions regarding this RFP can be emailed to: HCC.DPH@ct.gov .
3/31/2022 7176232

Legal Notice
Request for Proposals
Automated Work Zone Speed Control
Design-Build Pilot Project

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to engage a contracting firm to provide services related to Automated Work Zone Speed Control pilot project. More detailed information regarding this project can be found at:
https://webprocure.perfect.com/wp-web-public/#/bidboard/bid/98540?customerid=51
Connecticut Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
3/17-4/1/2022 7171086

LOST TITLE APPLICATION NO.: 2358646
OFFICE OF TITLES
NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 82 OF THE REGISTRATION OF TITLES ACT (RTA)

WHEREAS the applicant(s) in the above stated application has/have declared that the following duplicate Certificate of Title has been lost, I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I intend to cancel the said Certificate of Title and issue a new one in duplicate fourteen days after the last publication of this advertisement.

Volume: 1456
Folio: 300
Place: Part of Brighton
Parish: St. Elizabeth
Registered proprietor(s): Norma Smith-Brown and George Brown

The following transactions were lodged with this application and will be registered pursuant to Section 81 of the RTA:
Application to Note Death 2358641

L. Dunbar
Deputy Registrar of Titles
3/24, 3/31/2022 7174455

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTION
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – REGULAR MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Simsbury took the following action(s) at its regular meeting held virtually on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom:
1. Approved with conditions, Application #22-04 of John Mayock, Owner/Applicant, for variances pursuant to the Simsbury Zoning Regulations Sections 3.5 and 3.9 for the construction of a garage addition that exceeds the maximum height limit and the construction of an exterior staircase within the side yard setback of the property located at 130 Terrys Plain Road (Assessor's Map J08, Block 128, and Lot 004C). Zone R-40.
A copy of the above is on file in the Office of the Planning Department, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut for public inspection.
SIMSBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
3/31/2022 7180771

Federal Program Waiting List Opening Notice

Starting April 7, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. through April 21, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. the Housing Authority of the City of Bristol (BHA) will accept pre-applications for efficiency, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units at Bonnie Acres, JKF Apartments and Gaylord Towers. These units are for Elderly (62 and over) and Disabled individuals only. We will also be accepting pre-applications for 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom units at Cambridge Park, a family site. All properties are rent-subsidized, and rent is based on the tenant's income. To get qualification information on how to apply, go to our BHA website www.bristolhousing.org or the United Way 211 Website at www.cthcvp.org.
We are an equal housing provider and we do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital or familial status.

Aviso de apertura de la lista de espera del Programa Federal
A partir del 7 de abril de 2022 a las 8:30 a. m. hasta el 21 de abril de 2022 a las 4:30 p. m. la Autoridad de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Bristol (BHA) aceptará solicitudes para las unidades de 1 y 2 dormitorios en Bonnie Acres, JKF Apartments y Gaylord Towers. Esta lista es para personas mayores de 62 años o más y para personas discapacitadas. La renta es con subsidio y es basada en el ingreso del residente. También aceptaremos solicitudes para las lista de 1, 2, 3 y 4 habitaciones en Cambridge Park. Esta lista es para familias. Para obtener información de calificación sobre cómo presentar una solicitud para estas listas, visite nuestra página web de BHA www.bristolhousing.org o la página web de United Way 211 en www.cthcvp.org.
Somos un proveedor de vivienda equitativa y no discriminamos por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, religión, sexo, orientación sexual real o percibida, identidad de género, discapacidad, estado civil o familiar.
3/31/2022 7180871

Storrs CT Minority Opportunity – Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice; Storrs CT-UConn Alumni Residence Halls Roof Replacement. Trades; Carpentry, Masonry, Plumbing, Landscaping/sod, Portable Restrooms, Access Ladders (steel). Material Supply; flat stock metal, lumber. Our bid submits on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktownroofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
3/31/2022 7181597

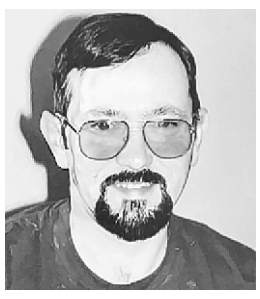
OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Berlin
Anthony M. Toce, III
Bristol
Mildred A. Boisvert
Conrad L Clavette
Colchester
Antoinette Pietraszewski
East Hartford
Robert D. Venti
Enfield
Carmella Lecour
Farmington
Peter B. Wade
Glastonbury
Marion Theda Marinelli
Hartford
Peter B. Wade
Manchester
Robert D. Venti
New Britain
Antoinette Pietraszewski
Newington
Thomas V. Dewolf
Other Towns in CT
Real M. Hamel
Vivien Turcotte
Plainville
Marion Theda Marinelli
Rocky Hill
Ann J Cameron
Simsbury
Real M. Hamel
Southington
Conrad L Clavette
Wethersfield
Maryellen Bocaccino
Ann J Cameron

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Toce III, Anthony M



Anthony Toce III passed away on Friday March 18, 2022, at the age of 66. He was a long time resident of Berlin, CT as well as various locations in Maine. He was the son of the Late Anthony and Shirley Toce. Anthony leaves behind his son Anthony Toce IV and his future Wife Tanaya Matus, and his grandchildren Anthony Toce V and Tate Noah Toce. Anthony leaves behind his brother Chris Toce and his wife Mary Ellen, his sister's Theresa Trigila and her husband Vinny, Rocka Walsh and her husband Tim, Melissa Robinson and her husband Tim, Lisa Toce, and his brother in law's Michael McNamara and Emil Bengtson. He was predeceased by his sisters Gail, Jean, Linda and Angela, and his brother in law Rocco. He also leaves behind several nieces and nephews. Anthony was a outdoor sportsman and enjoyed fishing, hunting, and hiking. He also enjoyed working as a commercial fisherman in Maine, along with his years in Southwest Harbor working as a cook before moving back to Berlin. He was a member of the DMA and The New Britain Hunting and Fishing Club. A celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Wade, Peter B.

Peter B. Wade, M.D., 65, of Farmington, beloved husband of Joyce M. (Hanrahan) Wade passed away at St. Francis Hospital on Sunday March 27, 2022. Born in Saranac Lake, NY on October 12, 1956, the son of the late Philip B. Wade, M.D. and Helen B. (Hickey) Wade, Peter was raised in Quaker Hill, CT and attended schools there. Dr. Wade received his undergraduate degree in Physics from the College of the Holy Cross in 1978. He went on to Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, graduating in 1982 with his medical degree. From 1982 to 1985 Peter completed an Internal Medicine Residency at St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Boston. From 1985-1988 Peter completed a Neurology Residency at Georgetown Hospital in Washington, D.C. Peter completed his post-doctoral fellowship in Clinical Neurophysiology at Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Neurology. He was currently serving as the Medical Director of Neurology at the Mandell Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Center at Mt. Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital in Hartford. In addition, Dr. Wade was a member of the Neurology Department at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. At the Mandell Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Center, he was responsible for evaluating and treating over 3,200 patients with Multiple Sclerosis. Dr. Wade was a member of the Saint Francis Hospital and Mount Sinai family for over three decades, Dr. Wade was the founding medical director of the Mandell MS Center. From its opening in February 2008, he was responsible for the immediate growth and oversight of the clinical program. But perhaps more impactful than that, he was known for his compassion and empathy of his patients and the MS community. He advocated for change in the treatment of MS as he dedicated his career to the enhancement of comprehensive MS care and inspired all those around him to do the same. Dr. Wade was passionate about carrying out the vision of the Mandell MS Center and considered his patients and colleagues to be part of his MS family. In 2014 he was recognized by his colleagues and was awarded the Distinguished Physicians Award at St. Francis Hospital. Dr. Wade was best known for his charisma and wit, his appreciation for the role of humor in life, his ability to connect with patients and colleagues at a human and vulnerable level, and his caring nature. When not caring for patients, he enjoyed traveling and playing golf at the Golf Club of Avon. Recently, Peter won the 2021 Fall Member-Member tournament with one of his golfing buddies. He enjoyed traveling to Florida, especially to Sarasota and Longboat Key. However, his greatest joy was spending time with his wife Joyce, the love of his life. For his 65th Birthday, Joyce gave Peter the gift of attending Boston Red Sox Fantasy Baseball Camp. Not only did he have a wonderful time, but he was awarded the 2022 Boston Red Sox Fantasy Camp Woody Starr Hustle Award. Due to complications of the Covid virus, Dr. Wade's plans and dreams of retirement will unfortunately never be realized. Peter is survived by his wife of 36 years; Joyce M. (Hanrahan) Wade of Farmington, his brothers; James Wade and his wife Alisa Rock of Baltimore, MD, John Wade, DMD and his wife Maria Saccoccio, DMD of North Kingston, RI and Daniel Wade and his wife Rose of Boulder, CO, his sister; Ann Iandiorio of Acton, MA, and many beloved nieces and nephews. Peter was predeceased by his parents and brother-in-law; Terrell Iandiorio. Peter's family will receive family and friends on Friday, April 1, 2022, from 4PM-8PM at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family, Center, 301 Country Club Road, Avon, CT 06001. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday April 2, 2022, at 10AM at the Church of St. Patrick, 110 Main Street, Farmington, CT 06032. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, 453 Fairfield Ave, Hartford, CT 06101. In lieu of flowers donations in Dr. Wade's memory may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, PO Box #91891, Washington, DC 20090, Mandell Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Center, 490 Blue Hills Ave, Hartford, CT 06112 or the American Heart Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692 or to a charity of your choice in Peter's name. For condolences or directions please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

OBITUARIES

Bocaccino, Maryellen

Maryellen Bocaccino, formerly of Wethersfield, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. She is survived by her sister Carol and her husband, Robert, two nieces Bridget Cherry and Erin Kelly, and her nephew Brendan Kelly and their families. She was also blessed to have so many other wonderful people in her life, friends, co-workers and neighbors.
Friends and family may pay their respects on Friday, April 1, 2022 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Road, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Maryellen's life will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 11:15am in the Church of the Incarnation 544 Prospect St. Wethersfield, all attendees are asked to go directly to church. Masks are required at the visitation as well as the Mass of Christian Burial. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Church of the Incarnation or if you prefer, a donation to your favorite charity in Maryellen's name. To leave a condolence, or to read the full obituary, please visit FarleySullivan.com

Farley-Sullivan
Funeral Home

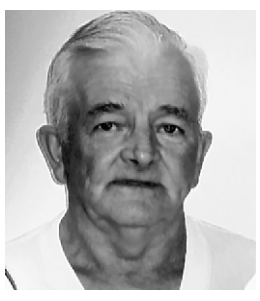
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Clavette, Conrad L

CLAVETTE, Conrad L. of Southington, passed away suddenly on Monday, March 7, 2022 while vacationing in Orlando, Florida. Conrad was born January 24,1946 in Bristol, a son of the late Paul E. and Nora A. (Dube) Clavette. Conrad was predeceased by his loving wife Elaine, brother Normand and sister Juliette. Conrad served his country honorably in the United States Navy from 1964 to 1968 before a successful career as a lithographer. Conrad loved to build things, especially with his family, which included two houses. His legacy will live on through the handiwork that he created. He loved to travel, hunt and fish and brought joy to so many around him. Conrad is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Patrick L. Clavette of Burlington, Carl S. Clavette and Melissa J. Clavette of Burlington; a daughter and son-in-law, Kristen E. and Robert A. Lessard of Burlington; Tilda Uccello, his loving companion of 20 years, of Southington, and her family whom he loved as his own. Conrad is also survived by a brother Bernard R. Clavette, and a sister and brother-in-law Priscilla M. and Donald L. Butler of Terryville; six grandchildren, Amber M. Clavette, Cody R. Lessard, Kylie E. Lessard, Eleanor H. Clavette, Timothy M. Clavette, and Isiac M. Carrano and many nieces and nephews. He will be dearly missed. A memorial service will be held at 11:00AM Wednesday, April 6 at St. Joseph Cemetery, 522 Terryville Ave., Bristol, CT. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children Research Hospital.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Hamel, Real Marc



Real Marc Hamel, 79, of the Weatogue section of Simsbury, husband of the late Shirley A. (Rood) Hamel, died Saturday, March 26, 2022 at John Dempsey Hospital. He was born January 24, 1943 in Canada, son of the late Roger Marc and Mary (Lecuyer) Hamel and had lived in Weatogue for 52 years. He was a Mason for Simscroft Echo Farms for many years prior to his retirement. Real enjoyed wood working, gardening, watching old movies and sitcoms and getting visits from his five grandsons. He is survived by his daughter, Carol Hamel and her partner Joseph Peter Macsata, Sr. of Winsted; his sister, Carole Bourque of Canada; his brother, Marcel Hamel of Canada; his grandchildren, Joseph Peter Jr., Jacob Bryan, Alexander Cole, Julian Edward and Gabriel Real Macsata, all of Winsted. In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by his twin sons, Charlie and Ricky Hamel. Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, April 4th at the Vincent Funeral Home, 880 Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury, with burial to follow in Simsbury Cemetery. The family requests that all in attendance wear masks. Please visit Real's "Book of Memories" at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Venti, Robert D.

Robert "Bobby" Donald Venti, 75, of East Hartford, beloved husband of Roberta A. (Farrell) Pacheco, passed away peacefully at home with his loving family by his side on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Born in Hartford on July 24, 1946, he was the son of the late Joseph and Eleanor (LaMacchia) Venti and had lived in the East Hartford area his entire life. Bobby was a graduate of East Hartford High School. He was a proud decorated veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Vietnam War, earning a Bronze Star medal. Bobby worked as a lithographer in the printing business for many years. He was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 120 of Greater Hartford, American Legion Post #133 of South Windsor, and VFW Post #2046, where he was currently serving as Post Commander. He also belonged to the Army/Navy Club of Manchester and the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 17. He was an organizer and Master of Ceremonies of the Manchester Veteran's Parade and was involved with Veteran's Row at the Manchester Road Race. Bobby was also an animal lover and avid gardener, who was especially proud of his award winning roses.
In addition to his wife Roberta, Bobby will be forever missed by his two sons, Adam Pacheco of Derby and Joshua Pacheco and wife Chelsea of Broad Brook; and his two adored grandchildren, Robert C. Pacheco and Caroline J. Pacheco, both of Broad Brook. He is also survived by his brother, James Venti of Bristol; five sisters, Gloria Venti of Ellijay, GA, Joan Lugo and husband Rene of Cummings, GA, Elizabeth Pinney of East Hartford, Carol Schwager of Port Ritchie, FL and Mary Jacques and husband Robert of Glastonbury; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews; and dear friends. He was predeceased by two brothers, John Venti and Joseph Venti.
Calling hours will be Saturday, (April 2, 2022) from 9-10:30 a.m. concluding with a Celebration of Life Service at 10:30 a.m. at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. Burial with military honors will follow in Hillstown Road Cemetery-Veteran's Field, Manchester. Donations in Bobby's memory may be made to Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17, 20 American Legion Drive, Manchester, CT 06040. To share a memory of Bobby with his family, please visit www.desopoeh.com.

D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

DeWolf, Thomas V.

Thomas V. DeWolf, 94, of Newington, passed peacefully at home on March 27, 2022. A loving husband and father, devoted catholic and volunteer, Thomas was awarded St. Joseph Medal by the Arch Bishop, 4th Degree Knight of Columbus, and Boy Scouts Silver Beaver. Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Thomas' family on Sunday, April 3 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, April 4 at 10:00 A.M. at St. Mary Church, Newington. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain. Memorial donations in Thomas' name may be made to Homes For Our Troops, 6 Main Street, Taunton, MA, 02780. To share a condolence with his family please visit www.newingtonmemorial.com.

DUKSA

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Marinelli, Marion Theda

Marion Theda (Sanders) Marinelli, known to everyone as "Pat", 96, of South Glastonbury, beloved wife of the late John Marinelli, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at Seabury Meadows in Bloomfield. Born in Plainville, CT, on February 1, 1926, she was the daughter of the late Clesson Herbert and Marion Louise (Orvis) Sanders.
Pat loved ice cream, Elvis, trips to the beach, and being active in her church and community. Her mission was to give people smiles and laughter, often as either a clown or Mrs. Santa. She was a life-long member of Buckingham Church in Glastonbury, where she was known for her corn chowder and baked beans. From June, 1992 to June,1993 she served as Deputy Grand Regent for the State of Connecticut for the Women of the Moose, with duties including visiting every WOTM Chapter in the state. Pat was also active in the Elks Emblem Club, and was an avid league bowler. She loved reading, fabrics and sewing, and camping and traveling with her husband and family (especially in the Model T); and her children still haven't been able to match her pies and baked goods.
Pat will live on in the hearts and memories of her daughters, Sandra Cyr and husband Leonard of Rockville, and Theda Marinelli of Windsor; her son, Timothy Marinelli and wife Theresa of East Granby; five grandchildren, Echo Garofalo, Sal Garofalo, Cassie Millan, Travis Marinelli, and Trevor Marinelli; and nine great-grandchildren, Hunter, Ryder, Atlas, Lincoln, Sebastian, Vera, Lucien, Sage, and Victor. Pat was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to all, and will be greatly missed.
A private burial will take place in Buckingham Cemetery, Glastonbury. Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 30 Carter St., East Hartford, CT.
To leave a message for the family, please visit www.glastonburyfuneral.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Pietraszewski, Antoinette

Antoinette Pietraszewski, 100, of Colchester, passed away on Monday, March 28, 2022. She was the widow of the late John Pietraszewski. Born in Poland, she was the daughter of the late Jozef and Viktoria (Traczyk) Mikolajczyk. She lived most of her life in New Britain, where she raised her family, before moving to Colchester. She helped her husband run the Farmington Avenue Bakery, and she was a member of Holy Cross Church and its Ladies Guild. She is survived by her son David and his wife Kathleen of Salem, and her daughter Karen Scagliarini and her husband Robert of Amston. She also leaves two granddaughters: Attorney Lynn Perry and her husband Joshua of Norwich, and Amanda Mullane and her husband Thomas of East Hampton, plus four great-grandchildren: Zeigh and Zeta Perry, and Thomas and Andromeda Mullane. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Cross Church, Farmington Ave., New Britain, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 2, 2022. She will be lovingly laid to rest in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Family and friends may call on Saturday, from 8:30-9:30 at the Duksa Family Funeral Home at Burritt Hill, 332 Burritt St., New Britain. Donations in her memory may be made to Holy Cross Church, 31 Biruta Street, New Britain, CT 06053. To read further about her life and family and to share a memory with Antoinette's family, please visit the site at www.duksa.net

DUKSA

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

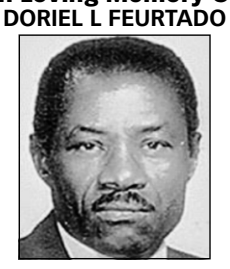
IN MEMORIAM

Cameron, Ann J

Ann passed on 12/27/21 at the age of 101.She was preceded in death by her beloved husband , Miller, and son Christopher. Her surviving four children, nine grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren will be celebrating her life on Monday June 13th 2022 at the hall of the Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main St. Wethersfield,CT from 11-1:30 PM and all are invited to remember this wonderful woman.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

In Loving Memory Of
DORIEL L FEURTADO



July 11, 1926 - March 31, 1998
Our love is endless, missing you dearly daily. Loving wife Rica, sons; Doriel Jr., Dave, Cleveland Sr. and their families.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
MARIE H VENORA

3/31/1931 - 5/6/2020

To my beautiful Mom in Heaven...Happy Birthday! You would be 91 years old today. So grateful that we had you for 89 years. You were the most beautiful, kind, loving Mother ever. I miss your smile and your laugh. You took such great care of all six of us. I don't know how you did it Mom. You are my heart and my soul. I miss you every day. Happy Birthday in Heaven! Love Lisa xoxo

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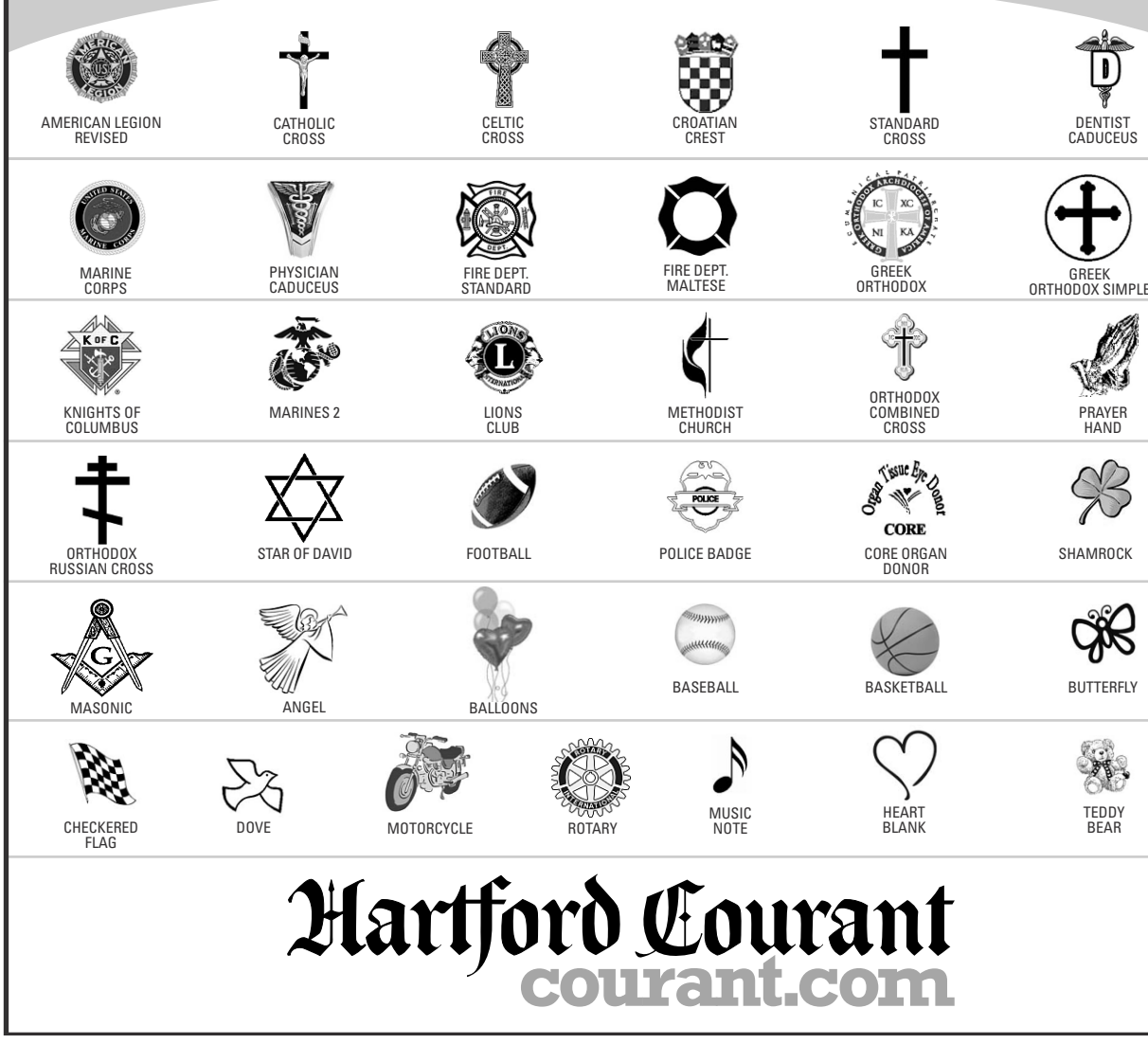

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Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina

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Todt jurors won't hear about his mental health

By Monivette Cordeiro
Orlando Sentinel

Jurors in the upcoming trial for Anthony Todt will not hear about the mental health issues exhibited by the Connecticut physical therapist after he was arrested in the 2020 killings of his wife and three children at their Florida home, a judge ruled Wednesday.

During a hearing at the Osceola County Courthouse in Florida, Circuit Judge Keith Carsten said defense attorneys are barred from referencing Todt's mental state or revealing that he expressed suicidal thoughts and was involuntarily committed under Florida's Baker Act, unless the court decides during the trial that those issues have become relevant.

"It has been understood for quite some time that evidence of most mental conditions, falling short of mania or insanity at the time of the offense, are not to be considered in trial in the guilt phase," the judge said.

Todt, now 46, is charged with four counts of first-degree murder and one count of animal cruelty in the killings of his wife, 42-year-old Megan Todt; the couple's children, Alek, 13, Tyler, 11, and Zoe, 4; and their dog, Breezy.

He has pleaded not guilty.

The family moved from Colchester to Celebration, a suburb of Orlando, a few years before the bodies were found in January 2020.

Prosecutors argued jurors should not hear about Todt's mental health issues because his attorneys are not intending to rely on an insanity claim, and a defense known as "diminished capacity," which involves an abnormality that falls short of insanity, is not allowed in Florida.

"Any evidence about the defendant's mental health status, diminished capacity or any evidence of Baker Act will be irrelevant and would mislead the jury in this case,"

Turn to Todt, Page 2

Anthony Todt is led to a patrol car to be taken to jail in January 2020. Todt is accused of killing his wife and their three kids in Florida. **CRISTÓBAL REYES/ORLANDO SENTINEL**

JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

LEARNING FIRE SAFETY

Tershiema Lafleur, a student from West Middle Community School, right, helps Hartford Fire Chief Rodney Barco, left, debut the Junior Fire Marshal live science experience at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford on Wednesday. The exhibit teaches four critical fire safety lessons.

COVID-19

Residents 50 and older eligible for second booster

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Federal regulators this week approved a second COVID-19 booster shot for most Americans age 50 and older in an attempt to bolster immunity that has waned since the nation's initial booster rollout last fall.

Here is what to know.

Who is eligible for another booster?

Additional booster shots are available for anyone age 50 or older who received an initial booster dose at least four months ago. Immunocompromised people under age 50 are also eligible.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a statement that additional boosters are particularly useful for the nation's oldest residents and most vulnerable residents.

"This is especially important for those 65 and older and those 50 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase their risk for severe disease from COVID-19 as they are the most likely to benefit from receiving an additional booster dose at this

Turn to Booster, Page 2

Relatives cut the ribbon to formally open the new regional magnet school in Bloomfield named for Ana Grace Marquez-Greene, a victim of the Sandy Hook mass shooting in 2012. Nelba Marquez-Greene holds over-sized scissors for the ceremony; to the right is her son, Isaiah, and behind Isaiah is Jimmy Greene, Nelba's husband. **DON STACOM**

'Her presence is here'

Family of Sandy Hook victim Ana Grace Marquez-Greene praises new arts magnet school

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Proclaiming that it was a day to celebrate, Nelba Marquez-Greene and Jimmy Greene led a crowd in Bloomfield in inaugurating the new arts magnet school named after their daughter, Ana Grace, who was killed in the Sandy Hook mass shooting in 2012.

"It is incredibly difficult to hold both hope and sorrow together, and that's what we're doing," Marquez-Greene told 200 teachers, staff and government officials Wednesday at the ribbon-cutting for the newly built Ana Grace Academy of the Arts.

"I want to give you permission to celebrate this great accomplishment today, and please join me in doing so. The kids deserve that, the teachers deserve that, their parents deserve that — all the people who worked so hard for this day really deserve your energy and your spirit," she told the crowd assembled in the school's gym.

The Capitol Regional Education Council

Turn to School, Page 2

Husband of Jessica Edwards has charges upgraded to murder

By Taylor Hartz
Hartford Courant

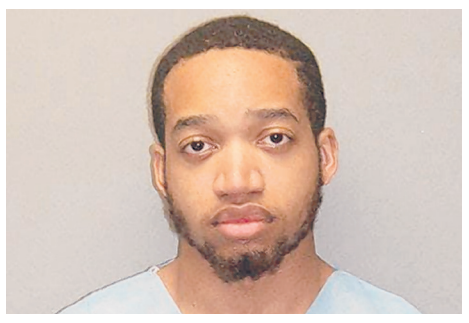
Tahj Hutchinson, now charged with murder in connection to the death of his wife Jessica Edwards, appeared in court in Hartford on Wednesday afternoon after failing to leave his jail cell in time to show up to a virtual court hearing on Monday.

Hutchinson, of South Windsor, was scheduled to appear in court via video chat Monday morning, but was a no show. He didn't leave his cell in time for the 11:30 a.m. hearing despite being told "on more than one occasion" that he was due in court, according to a spokesperson for the Connecticut Department of Correction.

Originally charged with manslaughter, Hutchinson now faces a murder charge in connection to his wife's death. Edwards, 30, was found dead in East Hartford last May, nearly two weeks after her husband and other family members reported her missing. The charges against her 23-year-old husband were upgraded in December, according to court records.

Wearing a tan prison jumpsuit, black glasses, handcuffs and shackles around his ankles, Hutchinson appeared in Hartford Superior Court at 2 p.m. Wednesday with his attorney, public defender Damian Tucker. Tucker did not return repeated requests for comment as to why his client did not show up to court earlier this week.

Hutchinson has been held at the Cheshire



Tahj Hutchinson, charged with murder in the death of his wife, Jessica Edwards, is shown in a photo from May 24, 2021. **HANDOUT**

Correctional Institution in lieu of a $1.5 million bond since his arrest last spring, according to the Connecticut Department of Correction and court records.

He was arrested on May 21, 2021, about 12 hours after his wife's body was found in the woods near Hockanum River Linear Park. The discovery of her remains capped off nearly two weeks of nonstop effort by Edwards' family to find the young mother.

An autopsy found that Edwards died of asphyxia and compression of the neck and torso and her death was ruled a homicide, according to the Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

During their investigation, police seized a blood-stained white blanket found in the

Turn to Charges, Page 2

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CONNECTICUT

Man, woman shot dead, chief says; police suspect murder-suicide

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A man and a woman are dead in Seymour after what police believe was a murder and death by suicide, the chief said.

Both were shot, Police Chief John Bucherati said Wednesday.

Police received a 911 call from the couple's son when he found them dead in their home on Manners Avenue about 9:50 p.m. Tuesday, police said. He had driven to the house after becoming concerned that he was unable to get in touch with them.

Officers arrived at the scene and determined that one of the deaths appeared to be a homicide and the other appeared to be a death by suicide, police said. Investigators concluded that there is no danger to the public.

"We're treating it as a domestic murder-suicide," Bucherati said.

The Seymour Detective Division is investigating with help from Major Crime Squad detectives from the state police, who arrived to collect evidence.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Cleanup, investigations underway after 25,000-gallon oil leak, DEEP says

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Environmental officials say they are trying to find out how much fuel oil seeped into the ground in Putnam earlier this month when 25,000 gallons leaked from a storage tank.

The leak at Saveway Petroleum, 10 Mary Crest Drive, was reported March 21, according to a news release from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The agency's Emergency Response Unit responded and found that while some of the home heating oil was captured in a containment area, some escaped and was released into the environment. The environmental agency described the containment area, which has a clay floor, as "older."

"The total amount of oil that has moved into and through the ground is the subject of ongoing environmental investigations," DEEP said in the release Tuesday.

There is no indication that local drinking water wells have been affected, the agency said, but authorities are testing nearby wells and the town handed out bottled water to some residents in case they detect fuel oil in their water.

The Saveway facility is conducting an environmental cleanup, and that cleanup continues, DEEP said. In addition to DEEP, the state Department of Public Health, the town and the local health department are working to make sure the cleanup takes place.

In the meantime, DEEP is working with the town and the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the status of the Saveway petroleum tanks. Work also continues to find out not only the extent of the most recent release, but that of any past oil leaks, the environmental agency said.

Residents in the immediate area with questions may contact DEEP at DEEP.SpillsDocs@ct.gov, DEEP said. Those who live close to Mary Crest Drive who would like to discuss their well water quality may contact the Northeast District Department of Health at 860-774-7350 or email@NDDH.org, with a copy to the town's Emergency Management Director, Scott Belleville, scott.belleville@putnamct.us.

Homeowners anywhere who rely on private drinking water wells are reminded to sample their wells periodically to ensure safe water quality, the agency said. Testing is a good idea even if you do not suspect a problem because testing is the only way to be sure your water is safe to drink. Refer to the Connecticut Department of Public Health's website testyourwell.ct.gov for more information.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

School

from Page 1

built the nearly 157,000-square-foot building to house about 850 pre-kindergartners through eighth graders from across northern and central Connecticut. The gleaming new building replaces two smaller schools that CREC operated in Hartford and Avon, and emphasizes classes in music, dance, the visual arts, theater and more.

Marquez-Greene and her husband are CREC school alumni and former teachers, and two years after the shooting, CREC renamed its arts elementary school in Avon after their daughter. The school also adopted the family's "Love wins" motto as a component of its curriculum, infusing classes with messages of kindness, self-worth and mutual respect.

The new building carries all of that forward, and adds the middle school grades.

"This is a school that Ana would have loved," Marquez-Greene told the crowd.

Marquez-Greene said the first time she visited the site near Route 189 — then just a muddy field — she had to pass Carmon Funeral Home and The First Cathedral of Bloomfield, site of Ana Grace's funeral on Dec. 22, 2012.

"If you know your journey, you know how hard those stops in those places have been. That's not where I drove today — today I drove to the CREC Ana Grace Academy of the Arts," she said. "My challenge to you is to ask yourself where you're driving today or where you're passing today, who you're going with and who you're able to stand up for."

Marquez-Greene and her husband were joined at the ribbon-cutting ceremony by their son Isaiah, who was able to survive the shooting that killed his sister. Marquez-Greene said the family went on vacation together this year for spring break, and heard of a teenager dying nearby.

"On our way home, my son said 'I never know what to say when there's tragedy, but when it happened to us it didn't matter what people said. I don't even remember what anyone said. I do remember who showed up,' " she said. "That's what CREC does, that's what you teachers do, that's what the parents do ... and ultimately it should be what drives our work. Because if we're doing it for ourselves, we are doing it wrong."

Jimmie Greene thanked the architects and construction team for working closely with his family to ensure the building would properly honor the memory of Ana Grace, who had already developed a love of singing and music when she was killed as a first-grader at the Sandy Hook Elementary School along with 19 other children and six faculty members.

"Every room, every corridor, every swatch of fabric, every paint color — her presence is here," he said.

"This building symbolizes the impact that Ana had on all of us, and allows us to celebrate her every day. Her legacy is in each of the students who walk through these halls," Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz told listeners. "This is a story that started with a terrible, unspeakable tragedy, yet through the incredible courage and fortitude of her parents something so dark was turned into a beacon of light and hope. It's a symbol that we will never let violence win, that love always wins."

Booster

from Page 1

time," Walensky said.

The additional booster will be the fourth COVID-19 shot for people who initially received the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines and the third for most people who initially received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

According to the CDC, 50.9% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents have received a first booster shot.

When will boosters become available?

The CDC's booster-shot recommendation is effective immediately, meaning people who are eligible should be able to get their doses right away.

Dr. Manisha Juthani, Connecticut's public health commissioner, said some providers may need additional time to sort through administrative processes related to insurance claims but that otherwise there should be no delay.

"I think people should be able to start getting them today," Juthani said Wednesday.

Where can you find your booster?

This round of boosters will be available at all the same places as previous COVID-19 shots. That means pharmacies, including CVS and Walgreens, plus physicians offices and a small number of enduring sites operated by hospital systems and other healthcare providers.

Dr. Jim Cardon, chief clinical integration officer at Hartford HealthCare, said the health system will convert its eight COVID-19 testing locations into vaccine clinics to prepare for the booster rollout. Those sites are scattered across the state, in Hartford, Bridgeport, Meriden, Newington, New Britain, Norwich, Torrington and Willimantic.

Cardon said he's not sure what kind of demand to expect, given relatively low rates of booster uptake so far.

"We have the ability to flex and expand if we need to, but there hasn't been a demand for vaccines," Cardon said. "We'll see what the uptake is here."

Is another booster shot really necessary?

Experts say people who are eligible for boosters should get them, especially if they are older or have underlying conditions that leave them vulnerable to COVID-19 — and especially as the state awaits an increase in coronavirus transmission owing to the BA.2 variant.

Juthani, who recently turned 49, said a second booster shot is "an additional thing you can do to protect yourself and have an extra layer of comfort that you are as protected as you can be from adverse affects of COVID-19."

"I don't really want to turn 50, but if I was I would get it," Juthani said. "It would just help me get through this next surge."

According to one study conducted in Israel, people 60 and older who received a second booster dose were 78% less likely to die of COVID-19 than those who only had one booster. While that level of protection isn't absolute, experts say it's enough to justify getting the shot.

"What I've been advising patients is that the benefits of the booster outweigh the risks of the booster," said Dr. Scott Roberts, associate medical director for infection prevention at Yale New Haven Hospital. "If I'm in the group that qualifies for it, I would definitely go ahead and get it."

Cardon said he sometimes hears resistance to boosters from people who have already gotten four shots and don't want to go through the process again, especially if they experienced significant side effects. And while he's sympathetic to those concerns, he plans to get a booster shot himself, in part out of concern about COVID-19 variants that could arise in the future.

"We should assume that the next one could be the nightmare: more lethal and more infectious," he said. "And we should prepare for that and get in front of that if we can."

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Police say they are looking for a brown, older model Honda Accord after an interrupted weekend catalytic converter theft in Wallingford during which a shot was fired. **COURTESY**

Catalytic converter thief who fired weapon when confronted being sought

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Police are warning people to avoid confronting thieves after one fired a gun during a Wallingford catalytic converter theft.

No one was injured during the weekend theft, which police said involved a brown, 2011 or newer Honda Accord that may have had a Massachusetts license plate. They released a surveillance picture from the scene.

It happened at 69 South Turnpike Road about 2:40 a.m. Sunday, police said. Someone interrupted the theft, after which one of the three men wearing ski masks reportedly chambered and fired a round from a handgun. The thieves left in the brown car.

Anyone with information about the theft is asked to call Wallingford Det. Kajtor at 203-294-2846 (Case number: 22-8168).

Wallingford police warned people to call 911 when they see a crime taking place or, better yet, when they suspect a crime is about to happen.

"It's always best to let police handle a dangerous situation, however, always use extreme caution when making a decision to confront someone committing a crime," they said.

Connecticut and other states have been plagued by catalytic converter thieves, who slide under cars, buses and trucks and saw off the emissions-cleaning car part, which contains valuable, precious metals. On Monday, Manchester police arrested a New Britain man who they suspect stole 24 converters from cars at Lynch Toyota on Tolland Turnpike in January.

Police said the getaway car used by the man, Joanberto Rivera, 22, matches the description of the car used in similar thefts in East Hartford, Farmington, Southington, Bristol and Vernon, police said.

The Wallingford catalytic converter theft is one of a spate of car crimes that led to gunfire in the past two years. In Plainville on July 22, 2020, a would-be car thief fired a gun into the air when the homeowner approached. In Chester on March 28, 2021, in Simsbury on June 28 and in Glastonbury on July 7, residents were shot at while confronting thieves in their driveways in the pre-dawn darkness.

And in Hartford on July 25, a resident survived being shot through the thigh when he confronted someone breaking into his car, police said.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Todt

from Page 1

Assistant State Attorney Danielle Pinnell said.

Todt's attorneys said they did not plan to introduce evidence of Todt's mental health before or during the killings. But the issue of his mental stability after their deaths is relevant to Todt's confession, Assistant Public Defender Alesha Smith argued.

"It would be relevant for the jury to determine the voluntariness of that statement," Smith said.

Detectives interrogated Todt three times at the hospital while he was suicidal and had diminished capacity after a Benadryl overdose, defense attorneys have previously argued. The judge has previously ruled to exclude the first confession after detectives failed to fully inform Todt of his constitutional rights but jurors will hear about his subsequent admissions.

Carsten said Todt's intoxication on over-the-counter medication can be considered by jurors to determine the credibility of the confession.

"I am unaware of any case law that supports the defense's contention that an argument of diminished capacity or suicidal ideations in any way affects the determination ... as to whether statements are credible or not credible," the judge said.

Federal authorities and Osceola deputies were at the family's Celebration home Jan. 13, 2020, to arrest Todt on insurance fraud charges related to his physical therapy business when they found the blanket-wrapped bodies of his wife, children and dog.

The victims had stab wounds and toxic amounts of Benadryl in their bodies, according to autopsy reports. Although he initially confessed to the killings, Todt has since blamed his wife for the slayings in jailhouse writings.

Jury selection in Todt's trial will begin at 9 a.m. Monday at the Osceola courthouse.

mcordeiro@orlandosentinel.com

Charges

from Page 1

couple's Jeep Cherokee — DNA testing found that the blood more than likely belonged to Edwards, according to a South Windsor Police Department incident report.

On May 10, Hutchinson allegedly "unsent" or deleted two picture messages — the last Facebook messages he would ever exchange with his wife — that contained images of his wife, in a bra, bleeding from her left ear and with dried blood, a scratch and redness on her neck and the area of her shoulder, according to the report.

Incident reports filed by the South Windsor Police Department revealed that on March 30 and March 31, 2021 — just over a month before she disappeared — Edwards sent messages to Hutchinson saying she wanted a divorce. She told her husband she'd sent him a PDF with divorce papers for him to sign.

"I want the [expletive] divorce papers signed ASAP," she wrote in one message. "Sign the [expletive] so I can move on and be happy."

In Facebook messages exchanged between the couple about a week later, Edwards criticized Hutchinson for repeatedly calling out sick from work.

"You have not worked a whole week in months," she wrote. Meanwhile, she added, the couple was allegedly "swimming in debt."

While she was missing, Hutchinson posted seemingly desperate pleas on his Facebook page, asking the public to help him find Edwards, mother to their then 7-month-old son.

Police were led to the densely wooded area where Edwards' decomposed body was found after cellphone data indicated Hutchinson had traveled there a few hours after he visited East Hartford police to report his wife missing, according to an arrest warrant affidavit. Hutchinson confessed to killing Edwards shortly after his arrest, saying he pinned her underneath his knee during a fight, according to court records.

Hutchinson is also charged with risk of injury to a child and tampering with physical evidence in connection to his wife's disappearance and death, according to court records.

He is scheduled to appear in court next for a probable cause hearing on June 3 at 10 a.m. in Hartford Superior Court.

CONNECTICUT

MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Relaxing outdoor dining rules

On a sidewalk in downtown West Hartford, Gov. Ned Lamont signs legislation Wednesday that relaxes the rules on outdoor dining he established in response to the initial outbreak of COVID-19.

GOP ad attacks Governor Lamont's integrity; Democrats respond in kind

By Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

The Connecticut state Capitol. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

A super PAC's first television ad complements attacks made by the Republican presumptive gubernatorial nominee, Bob Stefanowski, on the integrity and transparency of the first-term Democratic governor, Ned Lamont.

The 30-second commercial by CT Truth PAC spotlights the FBI investigation of school construction contracts once overseen by Konstantinos Diamantis, the state budget official fired in October by the Lamont administration.

It is the first negative TV ad of Connecticut's race for governor and comes as Stefanowski's campaign is running a new line of Facebook advertising suggesting the Lamont administration is corrupt and opaque.

Democratic rebuttals turned on Lamont's response to the contracting scandal and Stefanowski's own integrity, citing his record as chief financial officer of UBS and chief executive of a payday loan company, DFC Global.

The early Republican attacks and immediate Democratic counter are likely harbingers of an ugly rematch between Lamont and Stefanowski, both businessmen nominated in the open race for governor in 2018.

CT Truth PAC is an independent expenditure group with a Stefanowski connection: It is advised by Chris LaCivita, a strategic consultant to Stefanowski's previous run four years ago.

Liz Kurantowicz, an adviser to Stefanowski's current campaign, said there is nothing new in Stefanowski's focus on integrity issues.

"The issue of accountability and transparency are cornerstones of Bob's campaign," she said. "And they are issues that he has been talking about since the day he announced, and frankly before he announced, his campaign for governor. It's one of the reasons why he's running."

Going negative early is a sign of GOP desperation, said Dan Morrocco, the governor's campaign manager.

The Facebook ads on alleged corruption started running a week ago.

On television, the super PAC financed by real estate investor and GOP donor David Kelsey of Old Lyme closes its ad in a similar vein. A tagline reads, "Governor Lamont: Come Clean Your Administration LOOKS DIRTY."

The CT Truth PAC

Kelsey and the PAC's chair, Sergio Mangione, a construction contractor from East Haven, have declined to discuss the circumstances surrounding the founding of the independent expenditure group or the hiring of Stefanowski's former consultant.

Its first detailed campaign finance report won't be filed until next month, but LaCivita confirmed in a text message what sources had told CT Mirror: The super PAC is his client.

Super PACs cannot coordinate advertising with the campaigns they are supporting, and shared vendors or consultants constitute a presumption of illegal coordination under state law. But LaCivita's work for CT Truth PAC four years after the 2018 election is well outside an 18-month cooling off period in state law.

CT Truth PAC was created on Feb. 9, exactly one week after the Lamont administration disclosed that the FBI had subpoenaed records focused on school construction grants overseen by Diamantis.

Three days later, it reported an initial contribution of $500,000 from Kelsey, a co-founder and managing principal of Hamilton Point Investments, a national investor in multifamily housing and hotels.

Kelsey was not a donor to Donald J. Trump's presidential campaigns in 2016 or 2020. But he has given $1 million to the Republican National Committee since 2018, including $109,500 help with legal expenses related to Trump's challenge of his loss to Joe Biden and more than $200,000 to underwrite Trump's 2020 nominating convention.

The PAC's commercial turns on allegations by local officials in several towns that Diamantis pressured them to hire certain contractors and a CT Mirror story about one contractor's complaint to state officials in 2020.

"Municipalities [were] pressured to hire contractors, and Governor Lamont's people knew about it a year before the feds announced their investigation. Ned Lamont needs to come clean," a narrator claims in the ad.

It is true that, since the disclosure of the FBI investigation, officials in several municipalities have accused Diamantis of urging them to use certain contractors on state-financed school projects, including one that employed his daughter, Anastasia Diamantis.

The circumstances of what the Lamont administration knew before the FBI investigation are more nuanced.

A demolition contractor, Stamford Wrecking Co., complained to state officials on April 29, 2020 that the Office of Policy and Management, where Diamantis was the second-ranking official, had been urging municipalities to bypass local bidding and hire from a state-approved emergency bid list of contractors.

The complaint was addressed to Diamantis' boss at the Office of Policy and Management, Secretary Melissa McCaw, and to Josh Geballe, the commissioner of administrative services, where the school construction program was based until it moved with Diamantis in late 2019 to OPM.

There is no evidence that either brought the letter to Lamont's attention.

OPM eventually clarified in March 2021 that municipalities were under no obligation to hire from the state list. Lamont has said he was not informed of the complaint by Stamford Wrecking and was unaware of issues with Diamantis until a controversy over allegations of nepotism in October.

Diamantis was fired on Oct. 28 over allegations regarding how the same daughter, Anastasia Diamantis, landed a $99,000-a-year job as an executive assistant to Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo Jr. Lamont hired a lawyer to see if ethics laws were violated.

Emails obtained by CT Mirror under the Freedom of Information Act after his firing showed Colangelo had hired the daughter while he was lobbying her father for help in securing raises for prosecutors. The emails also revealed Anastasia Diamantis was moonlighting for a school construction management company.

Democrats' response

While decrying negative ads, Nancy DiNardo, the Democratic state chair, and Lamont's campaign were quick to respond with an attack on Stefanowski and characterized the super PAC's backers as Stefanowski's "Trump-supporting allies."

"This attack from Bob Stefanowski and his Trump-supporting allies is everything Connecticut voters hate about politics," said DiNardo. "Gov. Lamont has a zero tolerance for unethical behavior — he fired the individual involved, commissioned an independent investigation and immediately put in place strict policies to further protect taxpayer dollars."

The Democrats made clear they are prepared to make an issue of Stefanowski's tenure at UBS, a bank cited by an international watch group as financing companies with human rights issues.

Stefanowski could not be reached for comment on the Democrats' counter attacks or the issues they raise about UBS. Kurantowicz said they are intended as a distraction.

"Democrats are desperate to change the conversation because they cannot find a way to defend this governor because he has consistently failed to deliver a shred of transparency or accountability," Kurantowicz said. "And as a result Ned Lamont's administration is facing a widespread investigation from the FBI and accusations of gender and racial discrimination within the highest levels of his administration."

On the night he was fired, Diamantis said that McCaw, a Black woman, had been disrespected by top Lamont aides. McCaw never contradicted Diamantis but said her relationship with the governor had been excellent. She resigned last month for a municipal job.

Mark Pazniokas is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (https://ctmirror.org/). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.

Dave East headlines Trinity International Hip Hop Festival

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

Warm up your week with energetic art and rhythm as one of the state's biggest hip-hop gatherings gets back to business with rapper Dave East as headliner for the Trinity International Hip Hop Festival.

The free, multiday, multidisciplinary celebration of the hip-hop movement has endured for more than 15 years, and it fills the Trinity campus again March 31-April 3 with DJs, musicians, dancers, graffiti artists, filmmakers and hip hop-scholars from Connecticut, New York, Georgia, Japan and elsewhere.

The festival is open to the general public.

It's a grand return to live performance for the fest, which went virtual last year and didn't happen at all in 2020 due to COVID-19. This will be the 16th time the festival has been held since 2006.

A gallery retrospective of the festival's history is on the second floor of Trinity's Mather Hall for the duration of this year's event.

The culminating concert with East is Saturday night, but the festival also features visual art events, film screenings and panel discussions. Following is a taste of what's happening.

Talks, tributes and classes

The festival starts Thursday with hip-hop dance workshops from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m. on Thursday there's a tribute to Mikey Bankston, the Trinity alum who was killed when trying to break up an argument on a Chicago street last year.

There's a panel discussion Friday at 5 p.m. on "Archiving Hip Hop" with representatives of the Hartford Hip Hop Collection, the University Hip Hop Museum, Nomadic Wax and the Cornell University Hip Hop Collection.

A talk titled "The Fifth Element: Hip-Hop Legacies" is Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in Rittenberg Lounge, Mather Hall, featuring several of the Trinity International Hip Hop Festival's founders and current leaders.

Music, dancing, rapping

The live performances kick in Friday night with the Trinity 'Til Infinity All Styles and B-Boy/B-Girl Showcase and Battle, judged by Trinity (the B-girl of that name, not the university), N'tegrity, Gin, P. Boogie and Popkorn.

The evening also features an international array of hip-hop acts, including Rhythm Nation from Costa Rica, Trick Dynamics, Trinity's own Elemental and more in the Washington Room at the school's Mather Hall.

The Youth4Change Showcase happens at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon with Da Alphabet, Tahijawuan, Magic Soul Drumline, Hartford's Proud Drill Drum & Dance Corps., and the Studio 860 dance company.

That showcase overlaps with the Get Down Beat Battle Saturday at 2 p.m., with Shawn J. Period, Motif Alumni, Kel-C and Ms. Medli.

Khaiim Rapoet hosts a "Favorites Showcase" at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. The winners get to perform on the main stage at next year's festival.

The Get Down DJ Showcase is 8 p.m. in Trinity's Cornelia Center with DJ Stealth and DJ Kid Hype, both from Hartford; DJ Dookie from New Britain; DJ Kennedi from Glastonbury; and Noah G from New York City.

That's all a prelude to the big show from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday night in the Washington Room at Mather Hall with Harlem-born rapper East; the Filipino-American DJ Boo; Connecticut-based hip-hop acts Ric LaFlaree, Hydro and Lost Tribe; plus Bocafloja from Mexico.

Arts events and exhibitions

On Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., there's a "Get Up: Live Graffiti Mural Painting" event held in several locations at Trinity with artists from Connecticut (Airis, Kayla, Trae Brooks, G.A. Vargas), Atlanta, Georgia (Lisette), and Japan (Shiro One).

There are other graffiti art exhibitions on campus Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. featuring the work of Alex Gonzalez, Ashley Innocent, Kelia Santos and Ariana Lebron.

An exhibit of work by the Connecticut graffiti and street artist Legacy is 7 p.m. on Saturday at 111 Allyn St.

Film

At 1 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday there will be screenings of the documentary "La Manplesa: An Uprising Remembered," followed by a Q&A with its director, producer and others involved in making it.

"La Manplesa" is about a neighborhood protest in the Mount Pleasant section of Washington, D.C., following the police shooting of a young Salvadoran man named Daniel Gomez. Friday's screening is at McCook Auditorium and Saturday's screening is at Hartford Public Library, Park Branch, 603 Park St.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required for indoor events.

You can find a complete list of events, locations and more information on the 2022 Trinity International Hip Hop Festival at trincoll.edu

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Deadline to consider bids for Deer Lake property extended

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

In a win for conservationists, the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America has agreed to extend its deadline for considering offers for the Deer Lake property in Killingworth, Attorney General William Tong announced Wednesday.

Previously, the council had said it would sell the property to developers if it didn't receive a better offer by March 31.

In a statement, Tong thanked the council for extending the deadline, allowing more time for conservationists to raise funds for a competing offer.

"I have heard from a number of community leaders and preservationists who have a strong interest in the future of Deer Lake," Tong said. "I hope that this extended time will allow all sides to work together on a positive resolution."

The Connecticut Yankee Council said in February that it would sell Deer Lake, a 253-acre parcel used for camping, hiking and more, enraging locals who don't want to see the property developed.

The Trust for Public Land, which seeks to conserve Deer Lake, says it offered the council $2.4 million for the property, its assessed value, but was outbid by a developer offering $4.6 million.

Locals in Killingworth have scrambled to raise money to close the gap between the two offers, and Wednesday's deadline extension suggests their efforts have caught the Connecticut Yankee Council's attention.

David Anderson, land campaigns manager for Save the Sound, a Connecticut-based environmental group, said Wednesday he is still hopeful the council will sell Deer Lake to conservationists.

"There have been some positive developments in that direction," Anderson said. "There is a real passionate level of support for preservation."

Mark Kraus, Scout executive of the Connecticut Yankee Council, said Wednesday morning that the sale to developers was still in place. Kraus did not respond to a request for comment after Tong's announcement Wednesday afternoon.

In a statement in February, the Connecticut Yankee Council said selling Deer Lake was necessary amid a decline in Boy Scout membership. The Boy Scouts of America declared bankruptcy in 2020, in part due to a wave of lawsuits from men who say they were sexually abused as members of the group.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

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Everyone Is Invited To A

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0172-0477

Reinstallation and Removal of Horizontal Curve Warning Signs on State Roads in District 2

Residents, commuters, business owners, and other interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed project.

Please join us on Thursday, April 7th

The meeting will be live streamed via:
Microsoft Teams Live Event and YouTube Live

Formal Presentation will begin at 6:30 PM p.m.
Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

Instructions on how to access the meeting and on how to provide comments or ask questions, can be found at the project webpage: **http://portal.ct.govDOT172-0477**

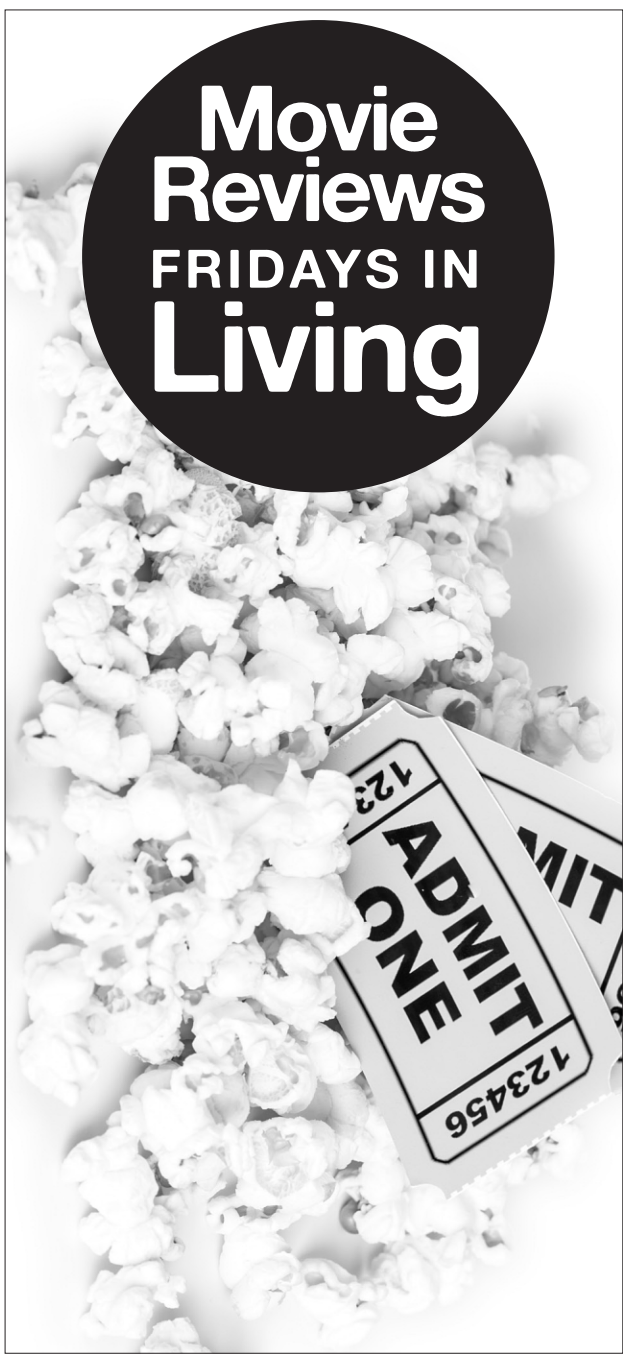
The public informational meeting is being held to provide the public and local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed project. Persons with limited internet access may request that project information be mailed to them by contacting Natasha Fatu by email at **TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov** or by phone at 860-594-2731. (Allow one week for processing and delivery.)

Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling 1-888-566-5916 and entering the Participant Code when prompted: 9977843. Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). The MS Teams Live Event offers closed-captioning for the hearing impaired and non-English translation options. A recording of the formal presentation will be posted to YouTube following the event and closed-captioning (including non-English translation options) will be available at that time. The recording will also be available in the list of DOT virtual public meetings here: **https://portal.ct.gov/dot/general/CTDOT-VPIM-Library**

Visit the project webpage for options for Apple users. During the Q&A session and the 14-day comment period that follows the meeting, individuals may leave a question or comment via email (preferred) at **DOTProject172-477@ct.gov**. Individuals may also leave a voicemail question or comment by calling (860) 944-1111. Please reference the project in your voicemail.

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

Movie Reviews FRIDAYS IN Living



PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
OLD SAYBROOK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Old Saybrook will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room located at 302 Main Street, Old Saybrook and via teleconference

Public Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/96174417686?pwd=Zk1kWmV2VlI3VVV1TUNtNEZRSEs0QT09
Meeting ID: 961 7441 7686
Meeting Passcode: 302302
Teleconference Dial-In: (929) 436-2866
One Tap Mobile: tel://9294362866,,96174417686# to hear the following:

21/22-20C Owen & Jeanne Gade seek a variance of Par 10.8.3 (non-conforming lot size/12,500 s.f. required/ 12,129 s.f. proposed); Par 24.6.2A (structure coverage within Gateway Conservation Zone/15% allowed/19.7% proposed), Par 53.1. accessory apartment B (minimum lot area accessory apartment/at least 12,500 s.f. required/12,129 s.f. proposed); and 51.3.detached accessory apartments B (bulk standard requirements/must meet all standards/ does not meet lot size or 15% Gateway coverage) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of a 1,439 s.f detached accessory dwelling unit with a two car garage at 20 Fenwick Street, Map 24/Lot 61, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone, Gateway Conservation Zone.

21/22-21 Cary Wallach seeks a variance of Par 10.7.1/10.7.2 (non-conformity enlargement/change); Par 24.5.3 (other line setback/15' required/ 11.2' proposed to east and 10.5' to the west); and Par 24.5.1 (street line setback/25' required/21.2' proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of two dormer additions totaling 94.5 s.f. at 14 Whitney Avenue, Map 20/Lot 63, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone.

21/22-22C Peter J. Connerton, seeks a variance of Par 10.8.3 (non-conforming lot size/12,500 s.f. required/ 5,122 s.f. proposed) and Par 68.1.2.9b (tidal wetlands setback/50' required/25.5' proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of a 1,609 s.f. house with a deck at 54 Vincent Avenue, Map 14/Lot 1, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone.

21/22-23C Michael & Carol Ann Fedele seek a variance of Par 10.7.1/10.7.2 (non-conformity enlargement/change) and Par 24.5.3 (other line setback/15' required/9.2' to west and 4.3' to east proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit construction of a 299 s.f. addition at 36 Beach Road East, Map 12/Lot 129, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone, VE-14 Flood Zone.
21/22-24 Guilford Savings Bank seeks a variance of Par 64.5.5.4 (setback from street line/10' required/ 2' proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the placement of a 50 s.f. freestanding sign at 840 Boston Post Road, Map 36/Lot 164, Shopping Center Business B-2 District.

21/22-24 Guilford Savings Bank seeks a variance of Par 64.5.5.4 (setback from street line/10' required/ 2' proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the placement of a 50 s.f. freestanding sign at 840 Boston Post Road, Map 36/Lot 164, Shopping Center Business B-2 District.

At this hearing, interested persons may appear or submit written communication in advance.
Plans are available for review in the Land Use Department, 302 Main Street and at oldsaybrookct.gov/zoning-board-appeals
Old Saybrook Zoning Board of Appeals
Charles Gadon, Chairman
3/31, 4/7/2022 7168484

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 391 N. Frontage Rd. New London, CT 06320 to satisfy a lien on April 14, 2022 at approx. 2:30 pm at www.storagetreasures.com. Cube: 3023 Carol Allard, Cube 4167 Tamara German, Cube 3107 Hannah Riske, Cube 2179 Alexandria Polk, Cube 2011 Thaddeus Powers, Cube 3168 Darlene Colbert, Cube 3063 Michael Laster
7180719

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Victoria Ketterer Loebell (22-00265)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated March 28, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Gregory Loebell, 5541 Carfax Ave, Lakewood, CA 90713

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
&
EAST HADDAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

RETIREMENT PLAN ADVISOR

INVITATION TO BID

The Town of East Haddam, Connecticut and the East Haddam Board of Education (collectively the Town"") is soliciting proposals for a Retirement Plan Advisor to manage the Town retirement plan. Additionally, to offer services for 403B and 457 plan options for all Town and Board of Education employees.
To request complete Request for Proposal, please contact Cindy Hughson, via email, at cindy.hughson@easthaddamschools.org

All sealed proposals will be accepted at the Board of Education's Office on Tuesday, April 12 at 1 PM and will be opened at that time and date. No FAX proposals will be accepted.

The Town will accept qualifications from all interested firms. After evaluation of all qualifications, the Town will develop a short list of no more than four (4) firms that will be interviewed and further evaluated as provided herein.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all qualification/proposals submitted. The Town reserves the right to waive any informality or defect in any or all qualifications/proposals if such action is in the best interest of the Town. The selection of the successful firm will be based on several factors as described herein. To that end, the Town reserves the right to award this contract, if at all, to a firm other than the lowest price if, in its sole discretion, it is in the Town's best interests to do so.

Return Bid to:
Town of East Haddam
Selectman's Office
1 Plains Road
POB 401
Moodus, CT 06469

Sealed Envelope Marked
"Retirement Plan Advisor Search"

7180289

TOWN OF CROMWELL
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday April 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 224 of the Cromwell Town Hall at 41 West Street on the following items:

1. Application #22-06: Request to amend the Zoning Regulations to add Section 6.11 to allow for the retail sales of cannabis and cannabis related products in the Highway Business Zone District and to amend Section 3.5.C.4 to allow for the cultivation of cannabis in the Industrial Zone District. The Town of Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission is the Applicant.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written testimony received. This application is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Planner.

Alice Kelly
Chairman
Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this the 21st day of March 2022.
3/24, 3/31/2022 7172993

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF CROMWELL ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Cromwell Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing and Meeting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday April 12, 2022 in the Council Chambers at the Cromwell Town Hall at 41 West Street on the following item:

1. Application #22-01: Request for Variance from Section 2.2.B Bulk Requirements of the Zoning Regulations (Front Yard Setback) to allow for the extension of the front porch which will accommodate the renovation of the second floor of the house at 75 Nooks Hill Road. Jeffrey Tobias is the Applicant and Jeffrey and Kaitlyn Tobias are the Owners.

At this hearing interested parties may appear and be heard and written testimony received. The application is on file in the Planning and Development Department office at 41 West Street, Cromwell, Connecticut.

Joseph Morin
Chairman
Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this 28th day of March 2022.
3/31, 4/7/2022 7173018

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SUPPORTING A TRANS CHILD

Experts say there are many ways to help a child questioning their gender

By Melinda Wenner Moyer
The New York Times

DEREK ABELLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott declared that medical treatments given to transgender adolescents, including puberty-suppressing drugs and hormones, could be considered child abuse under state law. Opponents of the move swiftly responded, including President Joe Biden, who described the decision as "cynical and dangerous." Investigations of alleged abuse sparked by the order were temporarily halted last week after a state court ruled that the policy was "unconstitutional."

According to a 2019 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1.8% of U.S. teens identify as transgender, meaning that their gender identity does not match the gender they were assigned at birth. When researchers interviewed teens in Pittsburgh as part of a 2021 study, they found that nearly 1 in 10 did not identify as being exclusively male or female. These adolescents are becoming more vocal about their identities and experiences, as The New York Times found in a 2019 survey.

Children and teens who do not identify with their assigned gender can face higher rates of depression, suicide and self-harm than other kids do. Research shows that they have better mental health outcomes when they have access to what doctors call gender-affirming care, which can include mental health therapy and hormone treatments. There does exist some disagreement among doctors and advocates of gender-affirming care over which adolescents could benefit most from certain treatments. Still, experts think these decisions should be made by doctors, patients and their parents — not by governors or state agencies.

We interviewed child health care providers who focus on gender to understand the best ways that parents and other adults can offer support to adolescents on the gender spectrum.

Get expert help if necessary

If you have a child who is questioning their gender, follow their cues, said Daniel Summers, a pediatrician in North Andover, Massachusetts. "Some kids, they just want to dress in a different way," he noted. Some want to do activities that aren't typically associated with the gender they were assigned at birth, he added, and they are happy after they make these changes. In these cases, parents don't need to do much other than to be supportive.

But if a child seems to be struggling with their body or in social settings, or wants a more significant life change, such as changing their pronouns or altering their body with hormones or surgery, consider finding additional support.

One good option is a local gender clinic, which can offer gender-affirming care, Summers said. Gender-affirming care can involve various services, including therapy and primary care. Some kids who receive this care do not undergo any medical or surgical treatments, he said.

Widen your gender vocabulary

When it comes to a person's gender, "the language really matters," said Laura Anderson, a child and family psychologist based in Hawaii who specializes in gender development. It's important to try to understand and use the terms an individual asks you to use, she said.

"Nonbinary" is a broader category than transgender, in that a nonbinary person "may identify as feeling both male and female, or neither," Anderson said. The term "genderqueer" can be used interchangeably with nonbinary, whereas "gender fluid" individuals have a gender identity that "is a bit more fluid, in that it can shift over time from one category to another," she said.

It's also important to try to use a person's correct name and pronouns, Anderson said. When one's gender identity does not match how they are treated by others, it can lead to psychological distress, she added. Research has shown that when transgender youth are not able to use their chosen names at home, school, work or with friends, they are more likely to experience symptoms of depression, consider suicide and attempt suicide.

Anderson acknowledged that it can be hard to use the terms correctly and consistently, since their meanings or connotations can shift, and new terms can arise over time. What's key, she said, is that caregivers try to be open to the concepts and do their best to understand them as they evolve. If you mess up, acknowledge your mistake and apologize, and try to do better next time, Summers said.

"I think the specific language is less important than the clear sense of affirmation that you're communicating with it," he said. "What's important to your child is that they can see that you're doing your best, even if there are times when you're still not getting it perfectly."

Offer curiosity rather than judgment

If a child doesn't bring up the issue of gender, don't force it, Summers said. But if they do want to discuss it, respond not with judgment or immediate concern but with curiosity, he suggested. Parents and other adults in children's lives should avoid saying "anything that's going to make the kid feel shut down, or rejected or unsafe," he said.

Anderson suggested first asking the child for more information. You could say: "When do you think you started wondering about this?" or "How should I learn about it?" she said. "Set the stage, no matter what direction it goes in, for staying connected and not creating a power struggle," she said.

It's also fine to ask for some time to think, Summers added. It's "OK to say, 'This is new information about you that I didn't know before — I'm really glad you shared it with me, but would it be OK if I think about it a little bit, too?'" he said. Just be sure to come back to the conversation later, when you're in a better mindset.

"The most important thing is that they know you love them no matter what," said Jack Turban, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at the Stanford University School of Medicine who studies the mental health of transgender youths. "Support of a young person's gender identity has been consistently linked to better mental health outcomes."

Research all treatments

There are several options to weigh if your family decides to pursue medical treatment, Turban said. Puberty blockers are medications for teens that "put puberty on hold while an adolescent has more time to explore their gender identity and think about next steps," he said.

Summers explained that the physical changes that accompany puberty can't easily be undone, so puberty blockers can be helpful for kids who want a little more time to decide on their gender identity before being locked into it. If they are stopped, puberty continues, so in this sense they are "fully reversible," he said.

More research is needed into how these drugs may impact brain development and fertility, and they can cause side effects including hot flashes, headaches and weight gain.

Older transgender teens can also take hormones, such as estrogen or testosterone, which "can help to align a young person's body with their gender identity," Turban said. Hormone therapy is not always reversible. If it is administered to transgender girls who have not gone through puberty, it can cause fertility loss. And some studies suggest that trans women who take hormones have an increased risk for side effects such as bone loss and blood clots, although research is mixed — women and teens who use hormonal birth control can also experience these side effects.

A new draft of guidelines released last year by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health recommends that adolescents receive psychological screening before qualifying for hormone treatments, although some clinicians disagree with that requirement.

Heat waves linked to climate change leading to a rise in US heart deaths

HealthDay News

An increase in heat waves driven by climate change is causing hundreds more heart disease deaths in the United States each year, with men and Black people at particular risk, researchers say.

Each year, the United States now has about three times as many heat waves as in the 1960s. Heat can put increased strain on the heart and trigger heart attacks and other cardiac problems.

"These results suggest the full extent of the adverse health effects of extreme heat is broader than previously realized," said study lead author Dr. Sameed Ahmed Khatana.

"Climate change and its consequences will have a very large impact on our society in terms of health, and cardiovascular health is an important component of that," Khatana said in a news release from the American College of Cardiology.

For this study, His team analyzed temperature trends and heart-related deaths in all 3,108 U.S. counties in the 48 contiguous states. The researchers determined each county's average daily maximum temperature from 1979 to 2007, and then identified extreme heat days from 2008 through 2017.

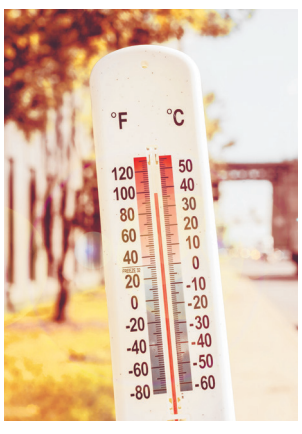
Extreme heat days were defined as those when the heat index reached 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, and the maximum was in the 99th percentile for that day.

Between 2008 and 2017, each additional day of extreme heat in a month was associated with an overall 0.13% increase in deaths from heart disease. That worked out to an average of 600 to 700 extra deaths per year.

But there were significant gender and racial differences, the investigators found. Each day of extreme heat was associated with a 0.21% increase in heart disease deaths among men. There was no significant link for women.

And each day of extreme heat was associated with a 0.27% increase in heart disease deaths among Black people. No significant association for white people or Hispanic individuals was found.

The study findings are scheduled for presentation in April at a meeting of the American College of Cardiology.



DREAMSTIME

CELEBRITIES

Bruce Willis steps away from acting

From news services

Bruce Willis is retiring from acting after being diagnosed with aphasia, ending a four-decade career. **RICH FURY/GETTY 2018**

Bruce Willis is stepping away from acting after a diagnosis of aphasia, a condition that causes loss of the ability to understand or express speech, his family announced Wednesday.

In a statement posted on Willis' Instagram page, the actor's family said Willis, 67, was recently diagnosed with aphasia and that it is impacting his cognitive abilities.

"As a result of this and with much consideration, Bruce is stepping away from the career that has meant so much to him," read the statement signed by Willis' wife, Emma Heming Willis, his ex-wife Demi Moore, and his five children, Rumer, Scout, Tallulah, Mabel and Evelyn.

"We are moving through this as a strong family unit, and wanted to bring his fans in because we know how much he means to you, as you do to him," they said. "As Bruce always says, 'Live it up' and together we plan to do just that."

One of Hollywood's most beloved actors, Willis' four-decade career has amassed more than $5 billion in box office worldwide.

Actor Miller arrested: An actor known for playing "The Flash" in "Justice League" films was arrested at a Hawaii karaoke bar, where police say Ezra Miller yelled obscenities, grabbed a mic from a singing woman and lunged at a man playing darts.

Miller took issue late Sunday with people singing the Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper ballad "Shallow" at a bar in Hilo, a small town on the Big Island, Hawaii Police Assistant Chief Kenneth Quiocho said. The song aggravated Miller, Quiocho said.

Miller, 29, has been the source of police calls in Hilo 10 times since March 7, Quiocho said.

Miller was arrested shortly after midnight Monday and charged with disorderly conduct and harassment. Miller was released after paying $500 bail. Hours later, police escorted Miller off a Hilo property after a resident called police, Quiocho said.

According to court records, two people filed a petition Tuesday asking for a temporary restraining order against Miller for that incident. Miller burst into their bedroom and threatened them, the petition said. The couple's petition also accuses Miller of stealing some of their belongings.

Singer Parker dies: Tom Parker, 33, a member of British-Irish boy band The Wanted, has died after being diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. The band announced that Parker died Wednesday, "surrounded by his family and his bandmates."

Parker announced his diagnosis in October 2020, and underwent chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Band members Max George, Jay McGuiness, Siva Kaneswaran and Nathan Sykes said they were "devastated by the tragic and premature loss" of their bandmate.

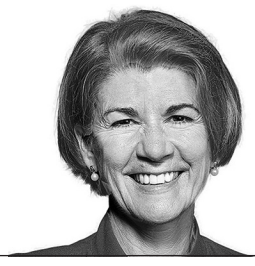
The Wanted is known for its hits "All Time Low" and "Glad You Came."

Foo Fighters cancels all concerts: Foo Fighters has canceled all upcoming concert dates following the death of the band's drummer, Taylor Hawkins. The rockers had been scheduled to play at the Grammy Awards in Las Vegas on Sunday as well as spring and summer dates in the United States and Europe.

"It is with great sadness that Foo Fighters confirm the cancellation of all upcoming tour dates in light of the staggering loss of our brother," the band said in a statement Tuesday.

Hawkins, 50, died Friday during a South American tour with the band.

March 31 birthdays: Actor William Daniels is 95. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 88. Actor Shirley Jones is 88. Musician Herb Alpert is 87. Actor Christopher Walken is 79. Actor Rhea Perlman is 74. Guitarist Angus Young is 67. Actor Ewan McGregor is 51. Actor Brian Tyree Henry is 40. Guitarist Jack Antonoff is 38.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Secrets creating a wedge among siblings

Dear Amy: A couple of years ago one of my brothers, who has had a checkered past, fathered a child that he hasn't acknowledged to our parents.

That same brother told me that our other brother is involved in drugs. He said that information had to stay between us.

I was informed about those secrets — I didn't seek them out — and they're just two of a number of secrets that my family has.

I tried broaching a talk with my brother regarding the child and was ghosted until he felt confident that I wouldn't say anything to our parents.

The other brother tends to gaslight me.

My parents said they didn't want to know anything that was going to cause tension in the family.

I don't live in the same area as my family, so that's helped me with keeping physical space. I've also learned the art of setting boundaries re: being seen as a confession booth.

But my parents frequently praise both siblings when they visit or call me, and it has started to grate on my nerves.

I also am just not comfortable at family gatherings lately, as I feel like I'm acting or performing. Is there a way I can handle how grating this is?

— Irritated by Secrets

Dear Irritated: If you don't want to visit your parents because the web of secrets you've been exposed to makes you an unwilling participant, then maybe you should call a temporary "time out" and not visit for a while.

If your folks ask why you don't want to attend a family gathering, you could truthfully tell them that you find the overall family dynamic of whistling past any personal challenges and issues exhausting, because you would like to be able to communicate about these things.

It would be a mistake for you to convey that you are sitting in judgment of your various family members, but you have the right to assert your own needs.

You should also convey directly to your brother that you will not be his secret keeper because it puts you in the terrible position of lying by omission. I'm not suggesting that you should turn around and blow the lid off his personal business, but if he ghosts you over this, then so be it.

In my view, if your folks want to praise your brothers when speaking to you then you should do your best to listen patiently. They may be trying to paper over problems in order to draw you closer to your siblings. They likely do the same when describing you to your brothers.

Dear Amy: My girlfriend and I are very close with another couple.

We go on double dates, hang out at each other's place and were in their wedding.

We have put a lot of thought and money into the gifts we have given them over the years — at Christmastime and for their wedding.

However, it's obvious that they've not put much thought or effort into their gifts to us.

Regardless, we always thank them, but they never thank us for the gifts we've given them.

We feel disappointed and think we shouldn't put so much effort into future gifts for them. Are we overthinking this?

— Kinda Hurt

Dear Hurt: If you want to give thoughtful and elaborate gifts, then you should do so only to express your own creative and generous spirit. The fact that these gifts are not reciprocated or appreciated makes you feel unhappy and out of balance, so yes — rachet down your giving and focus on the experiences you share.

It is a beautiful skill to have, but some people just don't seem to know how to give or receive with generosity and gratitude.

Dear Amy: In a recent column, a stay-at-home dad said that people will refer to him as "Mr. Mom."

He wonders if it is a put-down.

His wife has no respect for him as a provider, and that's obvious because she is working, and he is 25 and staying home to take care of a child.

This is not the example that he should want his child to see of him and his family.

His role is to be a provider and a protector.

— Upset

Dear Upset: This dad is providing and protecting, and he is doing that by raising his child and taking care of the home.

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Reality series finds Lizzo, dance hopefuls rehearsing for concert

By Neal Justin
Minneapolis Star Tribune

Superstar Lizzo, right, hugs hopeful Big Grrrl dancer Charity Holloway during an episode of "Lizzo's Watch Out for the Big Grrrls." **JAMES CLARK/AMAZON STUDIOS**

"Lizzo's Watch Out for the Big Grrrls" spends time with superstar Lizzo as she breaks in a new troupe of backup dancers, culminating in September's show at Treasure Island Casino in Minnesota, south of the Twin Cities.

But that climactic concert wasn't in the original plans.

The eight-part series, now streaming on Prime Video, is largely about preparations for a headlining gig at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival, billed as Lizzo's first major performance in nearly two years.

But when Hurricane Ida forced the cancellation of the fest at the last minute, producers made the decision to shoot the follow-up concert in the Twin Cities, where the Grammy-winning artist's career really took off.

"This may be a blessing in disguise," Lizzo says in the final episode, shot almost entirely at the casino just outside Red Wing, Minnesota. "I just feel like it's nice to bring some positivity to a city that supported me so much from Day One."

Director Nneka Onuorah scrambled to make the adjustment, eventually using eight cameras and a 30-member crew to shoot the performance in front of 16,000 fans.

"Treasure Island quickly welcomed us and gave us free rein to shoot," Onuorah said in an interview. "They really rose to the occasion."

If the women getting the biggest breaks of their lives felt like the casino show was a let down, they don't show it. They make up a song about Treasure Island at the Los Angeles airport and pose for selfies during a stroll through Uptown as if they were tourists at Disney World.

To be fair, they also get super excited about the prospect of rice for dinner.

They save their biggest shrieks of delight for whenever Lizzo visits the Los Angeles-based mansion where they cohabitated during three weeks of rehearsals. She pops by as often the next-door neighbor on a sitcom.

At one point, she strips down to her underwear and jiggles in the living room. They get a lot of personal time with a star so famous she'll have the rare honor of being both host and musical guest on the April 16 edition of "Saturday Night Live."

"A lot of times in shows like this, the talent is really only participating to amplify their name," said Onuorah, who made her directorial debut with the 2015 film, "The Same Difference," an examination of gender roles within the Black lesbian community. "But this was personal for Lizzo. We were of the same mindset, that women who are plus-sized keep being put in the background and they need to be in the forefront. When you're doing mission-driven work, you approach it differently."

Viewers will be familiar with some of the series' sequences.

Onuorah isn't shy about including how one dancer's ego ends up alienating many of her housemates. Famous names like Missy Elliott and SZA make appearances (cue more shrieks). A few of the women get eliminated along the way.

But Lizzo is so tender in the firing process, it's easy to mistake her ax for a back rub. The only time she loses her cool is when any of her posse accidentally walk in front of her on stage.

The series is unlikely to pull the kind of numbers "America's Next Top Model" gets. But it's evidence that Lizzo is going to continue to be a force to be reckoned with. The same could be said for her new batch of Big Grrrls.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): You may feel more receptive to new ideas today, setting off a spark of communication that could have your mind burning with potential. Pay attention to ideas that come your way — there is likely a good reason they occurred to you!

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Ideas could seem to come from nowhere today, helping you navigate through life with a hands-off approach, instead of through any direct efforts. The less you try and lead, the more likely it is that you'll imagine something special. You'll probably love the results.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): This day is going to be anything but quiet, Gemini! Try to take some time away from your responsibilities to enjoy yourself. A fun invitation or opportunity could come your way, so be sure to keep your phone close at hand — you won't want to miss out on any festivities!

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Important conversations could be taking place today — and you may need to be a part of them. A discussion with a boss could work wonders for you, so if the chance for some one-on-one time comes, you should definitely take the meeting. Don't hesitate to ask for what you deserve!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Messages could arrive from far, far away today. You could unexpectedly get pulled into a new adventure or enticed to seek out information or experiences far different than your usual activities. This is a day for exploring, so prepare yourself with an open mind and see what comes.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Any conversation could take on a rather serious note today, so if you were hoping for a light and breezy day, that might be difficult to find. That being said, great rewards can come from this — as long as you're sure to discuss your needs. That's the best way to ensure that they are met.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Today offers up the chance to obtain clarity on your standing with an important person or situation. Whether you're trying to reach a better level of understanding in a relationship or hashing out an important business matter, it's a good time to sign on the dotted line.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Where there's a will there's a way, so get in the mood to accomplish as well as have the brainpower to make sure you're performing at top capacity. Take advantage of opportunities on the work front, such as a new client or helpful coworker, and look forward to some results!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your mind is likely going to be focused on having fun today, this theme is amplified even more. You've got lots of options to work with! Whether you choose to take things on by yourself or link up with friends or another loved one, do something that makes your heart sing.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You might have to deal with a few things at home before you can head out to do whatever else you have planned for the day. These distractions could be quite welcome, like hosting a gathering, or they could less fun, like an argument with a roommate, but you can easily handle either.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Business is the order of the day, but business doesn't mean "busy work." This could leave you feeling like you're being pulled in several directions, so make sure you're clear about what you want to personally achieve! Don't let all your time go to tending the needs of others.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You've probably got your mind on your money today, Pisces, getting you in sync with your needs and how you meet them. It's a good idea to plan out your finances and ensure your accounts are all up to date. There might be a few monthly charges you could cancel to cut costs.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On March 31, 1917, the United States took formal possession of the Virgin Islands from Denmark.

In 1991, the Warsaw Pact military alliance came to an end.

In 1993, actor Brandon Lee, 28, was accidentally shot to death during the filming of a movie in Wilmington, North Carolina, when he was hit by a bullet fragment that had become lodged inside a prop gun.

In 1995, baseball players agreed to end their 232-day strike after a judge granted a preliminary injunction against club owners.

In 2009, Benjamin Netanyahu took office as Israel's prime minister.

In 2019, rapper Nipsey Hussle was fatally shot outside the clothing store he had founded to help rebuild his Los Angeles neighborhood; he was 33.

In 2020, Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan stepped down as members of the royal family.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

		3						
				3	5		8	
8	5	1				3		4
			9				2	
		7	4	6	3	5		
	8				7			
6		5				8	4	1
	9		2	8				
						9		

Level: 1 2 3 **4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

2	9	6	4	5	1	8	7	3
5	3	7	6	8	2	4	9	1
1	4	8	9	7	3	5	2	6
3	1	6	7	2	5	9	8	4
8	6	5	3	9	4	7	1	2
7	2	4	8	1	9	6	3	5
4	7	3	2	6	9	1	5	8
6	8	1	5	3	7	2	4	9
9	5	2	1	4	8	3	6	7

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7/14/17

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: hot stuff

331

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

L M T R O P I C A L G B R I D N F C
I F R I V S R G N I D L A C S E E A
G V Y A L E G E M I C R O W A V E D
H L S E W E T S D U Q X E W C O J C
T S U I W R N P C L H R J N Q T U H
E F L S Z G E I A H U T R O A S T A
R Q T P G E M C C T J O R C P Y A R
T O R R I D E Y A F A N M A D S U R
T O R R I D E Y A F A N M A D S U R
R T Y K E T L R L S L B R S E N F K
U E M X D T E F D I H K L H F H B E
D Z K S X P E H K W L E C A E X E T
E S C O M L R M O A K T S C Z W A I
S E W E O O E E O T A Z A B A E E L
C F T E N C K C K M P N L L H M L E
O B O I L E R E G C R L F A S B D O
R I I Z N T I N N U I E A G E E N A
C E T A R G E I F R K L H T E R I F
H S I N G E I R G J C Z F T E S K E

ASHES
BLAZE
BOILER
CHAR
COAL
COOKER
DEGREES
ELEMENT
EMBERS
FIRE
FLAME
FLICKER
FUEL
FURNACE
GLOW
GRATE
GRILL
HEARTH
HEAT
HOT PLATE
IGNITE
KETTLE
KILN
KINDLE
LIGHTER
MATCHES
MICROWAVE
OVEN
ROAST
SCALDING
SCORCH
SINGE
SMOKE
SMOULDER
SPARK
SPICY
STOVE
SULTRY
SWELTER
TEMPERATURE
THERMOMETER
TORRID
TROPICAL
WARM

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BOGGLE

Boggle® BrainBusters!™ BUPHWOISGOKEAGLM

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

U	S	E	N
V	N	R	U
E	A	T	E
M	H	N	P

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE
- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
- 1151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31 - 60 = Gamer
- 21 - 30 = Rookie
- 11 - 20 = Amateur
- 0 - 10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE PLANETS in the grid of letters.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

MARS VENUS EARTH URANUS NEPTUNE

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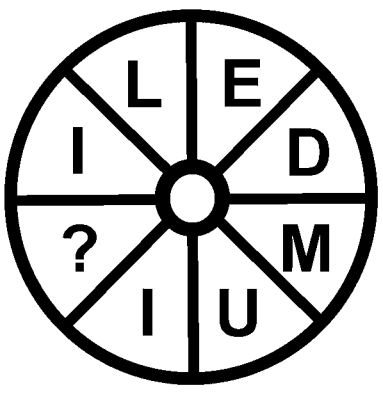
1-7-20

www.bogglebrainbusters.com

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

DELIRIUM

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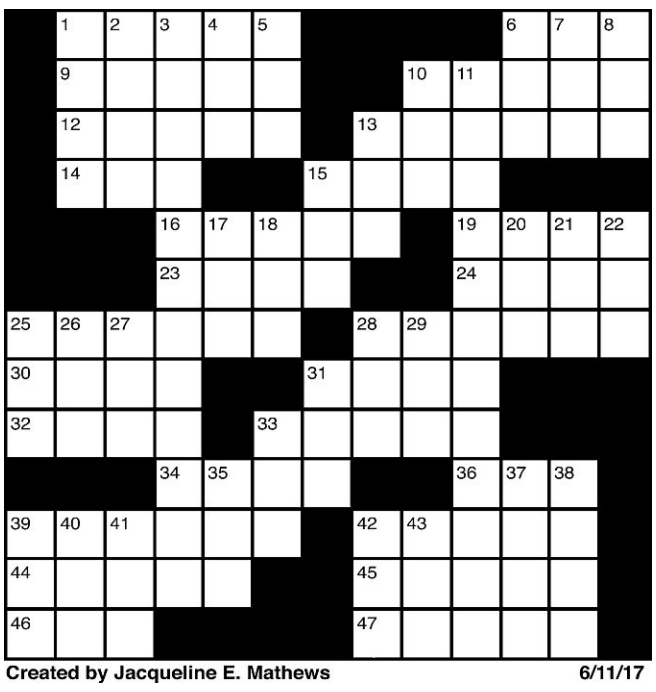
1/11

TV CROSSWORD

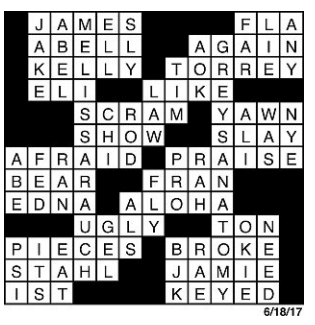
by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 6/11/17

ACROSS
1 Garner or Brolin
6 Setting for "The Golden Girls": abbr.
9 "__ for Adano"; Gene Tierney movie
10 "Never Say Never __"; 007 film
12 "Live! with __"
13 __ DeVitto of "Chicago Med"
14 Actor Wallach
15 "What I __ About You"
16 "Get lost!"
19 Sign of sleepiness
23 "That '70s __"
24 Kill
25 "Who's __ of Virginia Woolf?"
28 Extol; laud
30 Yogi or Smokey
31 __ Fine; role on "The Nanny"
32 __ Garrett; Charlotte Rae's role on "The Facts of Life"
33 Greeting from Don Ho
34 "__ Betty"
36 2,000 pounds
39 "Life in __"
42 "2 __ Girls"
44 Lesley of "60 Minutes"
45 Actor Farr
46 Suffix for cartoon or balloon
47 All __ up; very excited

DOWN
1 Role on "Two and a Half Men"
2 Cain's brother
3 Actress on "The Big Bang Theory"
4 Building wing, often
5 Stallone, to friends
6 "Master and Commander: The __ Side of the World"; Russell Crowe adventure movie
7 "__ to Me"; Tim Roth series
8 "__ Given Sunday"; Pacino film
10 Fine; in good shape
11 Medical drama series
13 Allen or Daly
15 "__ & Order: SVU"
17 Actor McBride
18 Stewart or Serling
20 Actress Wong of "American Housewife"
21 "How the West __ Won"
22 "Bill __, the Science Guy"
25 Actor Vigoda
26 Nourished
27 Galloped
28 "Semi-__"; Will Ferrell movie
29 Cheerleader's cry
31 "I'll __ Away"
33 Molinaro and Roker
35 Become firm
37 "__ from Muskogee"; Merle Haggard song
38 "__ for Speed"; Aaron Paul film
39 Fraternity letter
40 "Leah Remini: __ All Relative"
41 "Please Don't __ the Daisies"
42 Monogram for tennis champ Ms. King
43 "Norma __"; Sally Field movie



6/18/17

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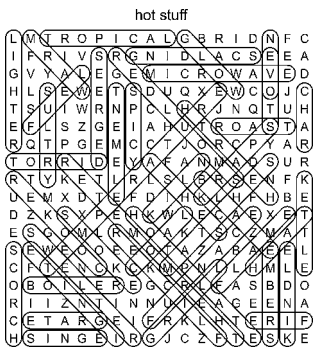
hot stuff



A C C O R D I N G

JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MEEEC

OEDGD

AABCSU

DOLYIB

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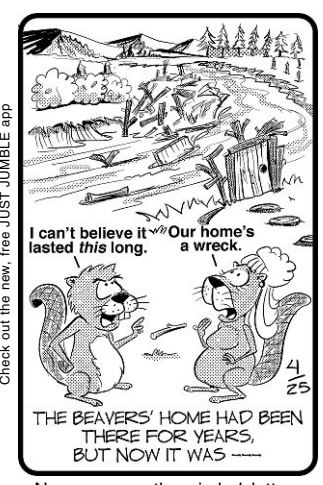
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

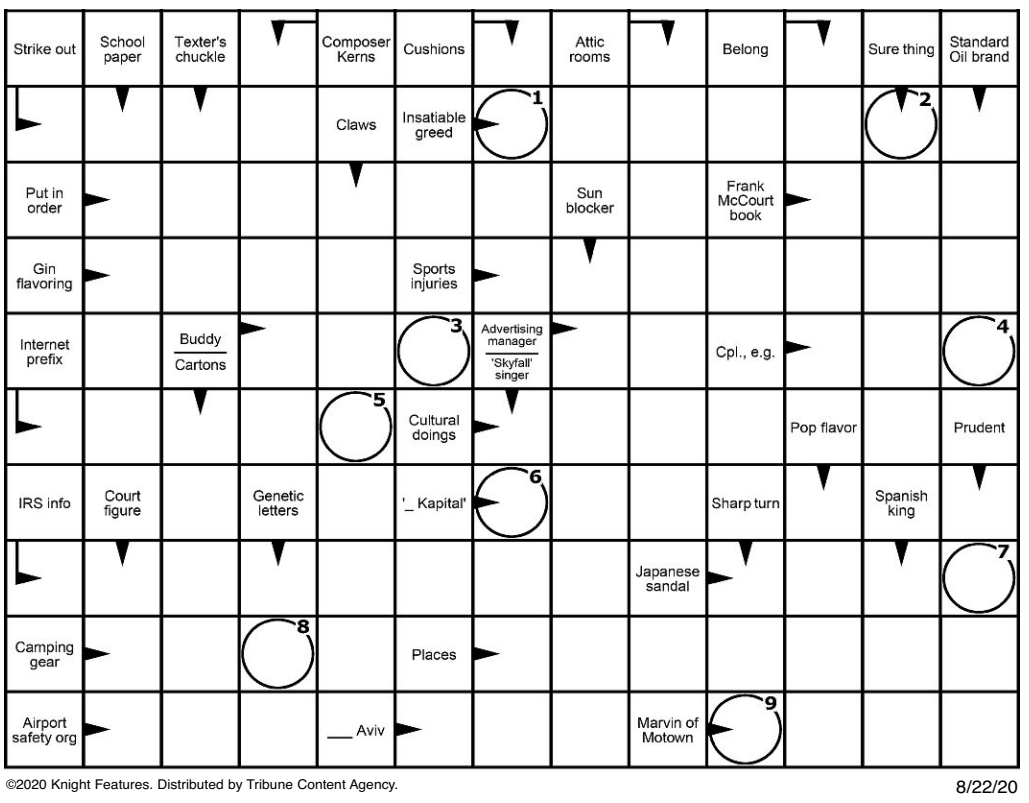
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) - ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

Jumbles: EMCEE DODGE ABACUS BODILY
Answer: The beavers' home had been there for years, but now it was — DAM-AGED

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



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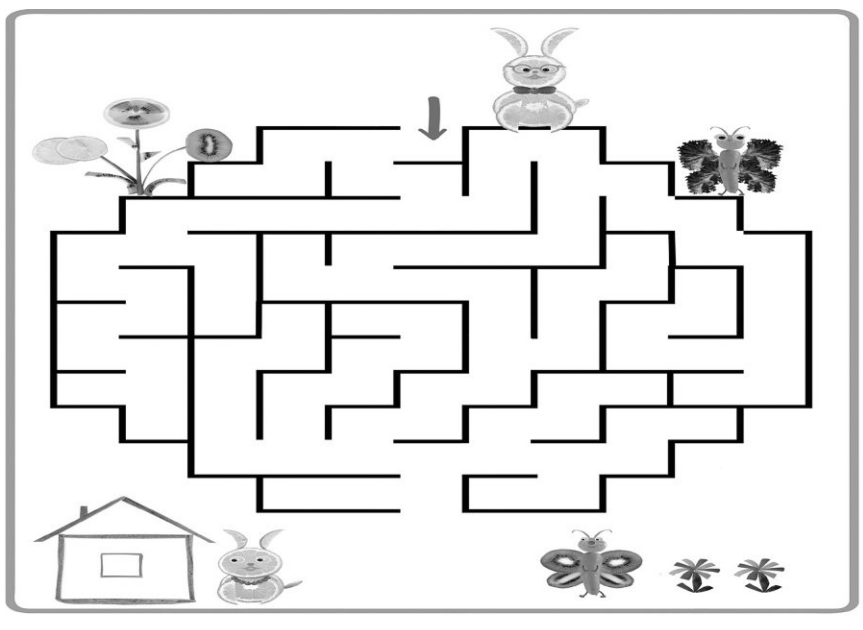
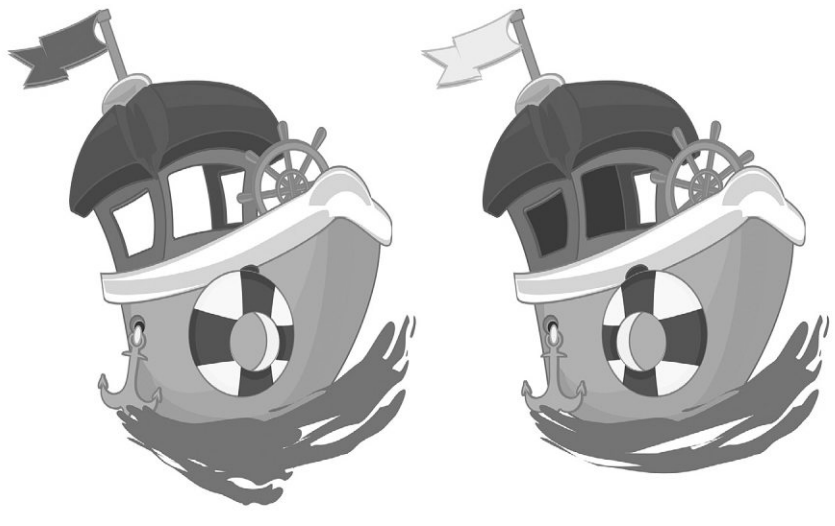
8/22/20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

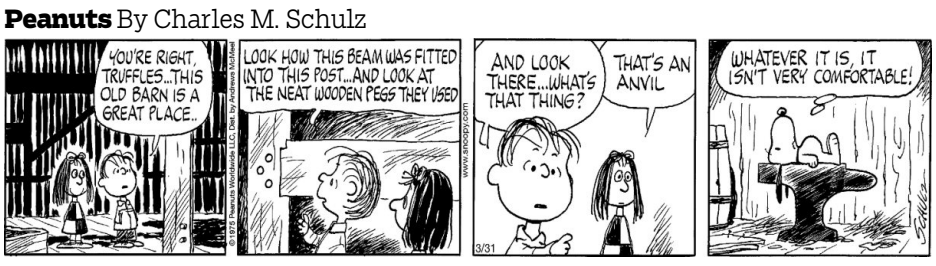
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



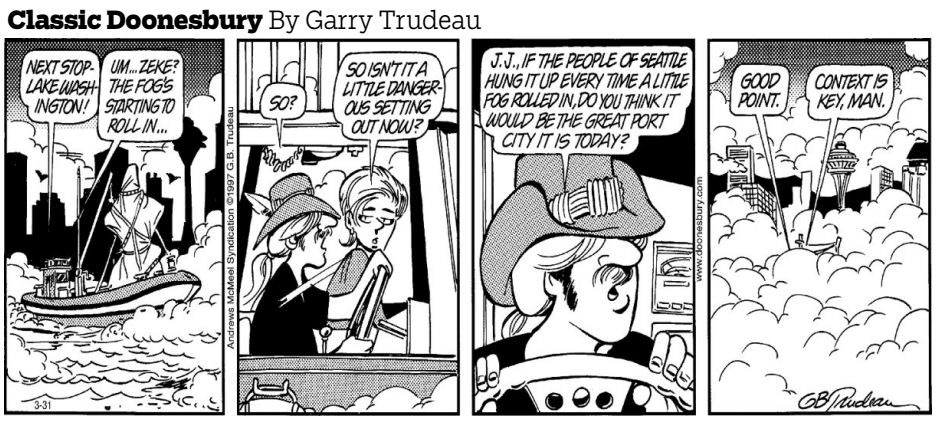
FIND 6 DIFFERENCES



Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz


YOU'RE RIGHT, TRUFFLES...THIS OLD BARN IS A GREAT PLACE..
LOOK HOW THIS BEAM WAS FITTED INTO THIS POST...AND LOOK AT THE NEAT WOODEN PEGS THEY USED
AND LOOK THERE...WHAT'S THAT THING?
THAT'S AN ANVIL
WHATEVER IT IS, IT ISN'T VERY COMFORTABLE!
3/31

Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau


NEXT STOP: LAKE WASHINGTON!
UM...ZEKE? THE FOGS STARTING TO ROLL IN...
SO?
SO ISN'T IT A LITTLE DANGEROUS SETTING OUT NOW?
J.J., IF THE PEOPLE OF SEATTLE HUNG IT UP EVERY TIME A LITTLE FOG ROLLED IN, DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE THE GREAT PORT CITY IT IS TODAY?
GOOD POINT.
CONTEXT IS KEY, MAN.
Andrews McMeel Syndication ©1997 G.B. Trudeau
www.doonesbury.com
3-31

Garfield By Jim Davis

I CAN'T RELAX...
I'M IN THE MOOD TO CLAW SOMETHING
OH YEAH! OH YEAH!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
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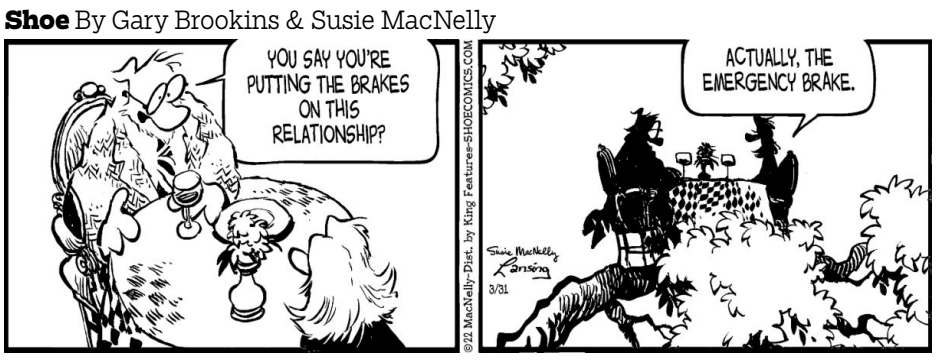
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 3-31

Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly


YOU SAY YOU'RE PUTTING THE BRAKES ON THIS RELATIONSHIP?
ACTUALLY, THE EMERGENCY BRAKE.
©22 MacNelly-Dist. by King Features-SHOECOMICS.COM
3/31

Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker

I HAVE SOME SPECIAL OFFERS YOU CAN GET IF YOU BUNDLE YOUR INTERNET WITH CELLULAR SERVICE.
SURE-- AND THEN WHEN THE SPECIAL OFFERS RUN OUT, THAT'S WHAT I'LL BE PAYING.
HUH?
A BUNDLE.
dustincomics.com www.facebook.com/dustincomic
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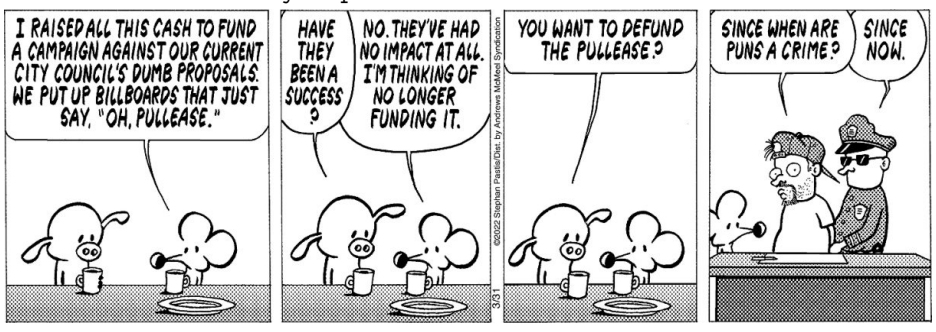
3-31

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis


I RAISED ALL THIS CASH TO FUND A CAMPAIGN AGAINST OUR CURRENT CITY COUNCIL'S DUMB PROPOSALS. WE PUT UP BILLBOARDS THAT JUST SAY, "OH, PULLEASE."
HAVE THEY BEEN A SUCCESS?
NO. THEY'VE HAD NO IMPACT AT ALL. I'M THINKING OF NO LONGER FUNDING IT.
YOU WANT TO DEFUND THE PULLEASE?
SINCE WHEN ARE PUNS A CRIME?
SINCE NOW.
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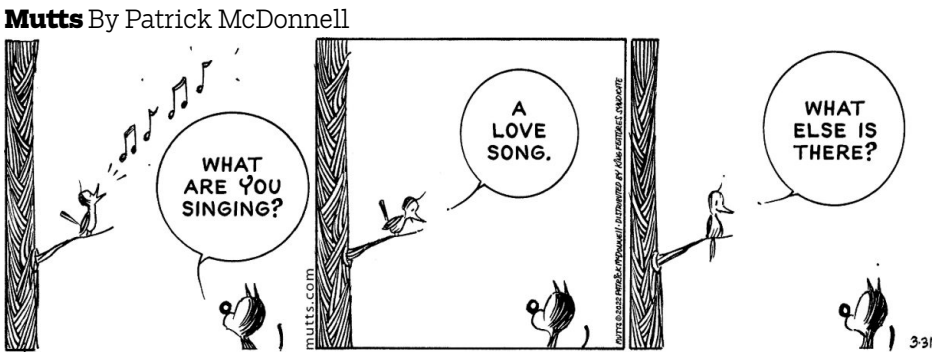
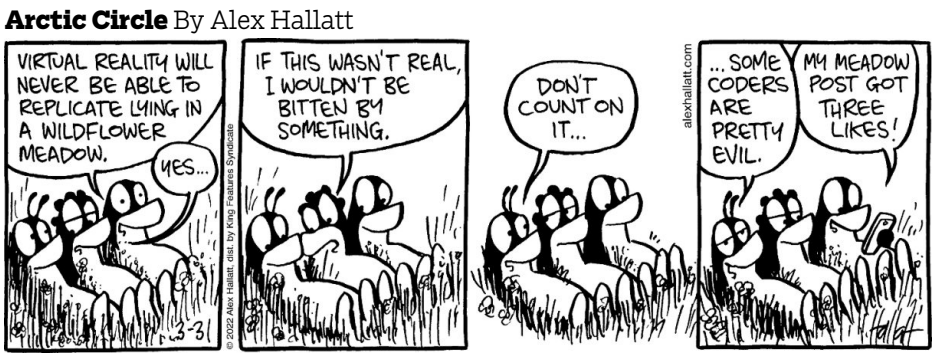
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt


VIRTUAL REALITY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPLICATE LYING IN A WILDFLOWER MEADOW.
YES...
IF THIS WASN'T REAL, I WOULDN'T BE BITTEN BY SOMETHING.
DON'T COUNT ON IT...
... SOME CODERS ARE PRETTY EVIL.
MY MEADOW POST GOT THREE LIKES!
© 2022 Alex Hallatt, dist. by King Features Syndicate
alexhallatt.com
3-31

Jump Start By Robb Armstrong

OK! NEW RULE: AS SOON AS SCHOOL LETS OUT, IT'S OK TO TURN ON YOUR CELLPHONES.
AND THEN YOU BOTH HAVE TO TEXT US, SO WE KNOW THAT YOU'RE OK.
SHOULDN'T THEY CALL INSTEAD? I'D LIKE TO HEAR THEIR VOICES.
OK! NEW RULE:
They're so cute at this age!
www.gocomics.com
©2022 Ruff Sketch, Inc

Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley

BUCKY, YOU CAN'T MAKE A POWER CORD OUT OF A FORK.
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT KIDS MESSING AROUND WITH IT, EH?
YEAH, I AM.
DON'T WORRY, I THOUGHT OF THAT.
PEOPLE WILL GO CRAZY IF THEY SEE THEIR KIDS FUMBLING AROUND WITH THESE.
RIGHT. THAT'S WHY THIS IS THE NEW OUTLET. USER FRIENDLY.
...BUCKY, THAT'S A TOASTER.
IT WAS. AND I'M PRETTY SURE EVEN BABIES HAVE THE DEXTERITY TO PLUG A FORK INTO A TOASTER.
© 2010 Darby Conley / Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS
GoComics.com
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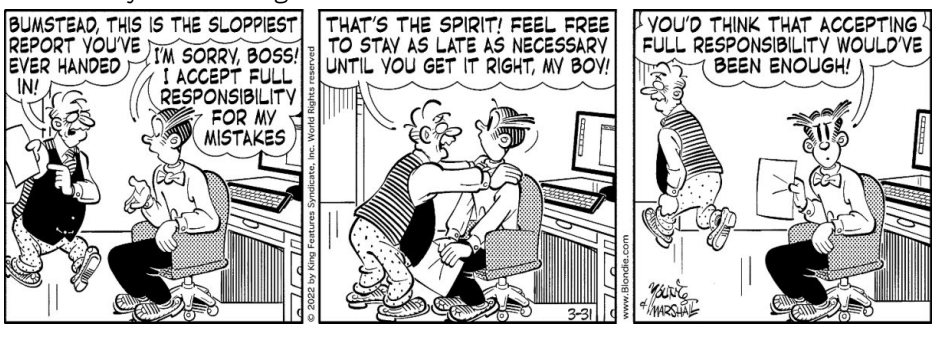
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall


BUMSTEAD, THIS IS THE SLOPPIEST REPORT YOU'VE EVER HANDED IN!
I'M SORRY, BOSS! I ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY MISTAKES
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! FEEL FREE TO STAY AS LATE AS NECESSARY UNTIL YOU GET IT RIGHT, MY BOY!
YOU'D THINK THAT ACCEPTING FULL RESPONSIBILITY WOULD'VE BEEN ENOUGH!
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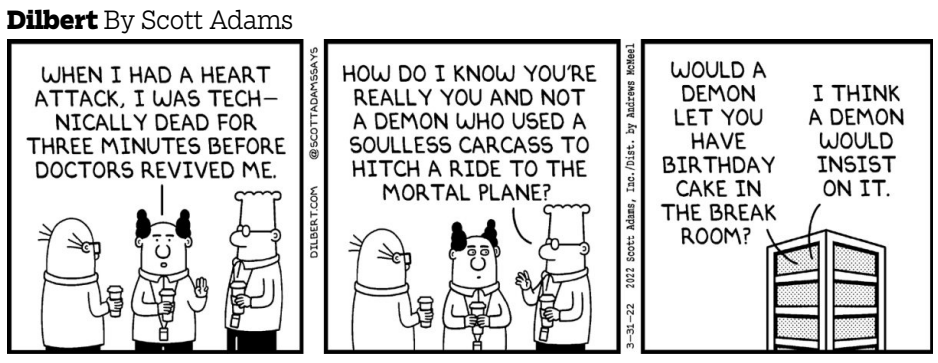
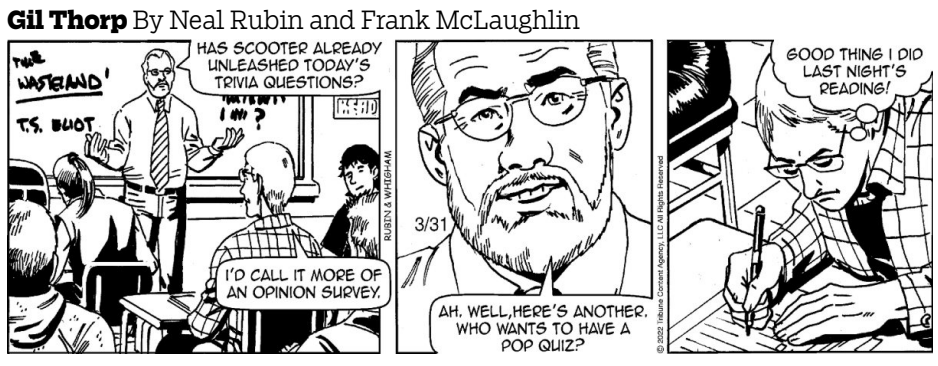
www.Blondie.com
3-31

Dilbert By Scott Adams


WHEN I HAD A HEART ATTACK, I WAS TECHNICALLY DEAD FOR THREE MINUTES BEFORE DOCTORS REVIVED ME.
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY YOU AND NOT A DEMON WHO USED A SOULLESS CARCASS TO HITCH A RIDE TO THE MORTAL PLANE?
WOULD A DEMON LET YOU HAVE BIRTHDAY CAKE IN THE BREAK ROOM?
I THINK A DEMON WOULD INSIST ON IT.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMS56AYS
3-31-22 2022 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin


THE WASTELAND
T.S. ELIOT
HAS SCOOTER ALREADY UNLEASHED TODAY'S TRIVIA QUESTIONS?
I'D CALL IT MORE OF AN OPINION SURVEY.
ROBIN & WHISH-AM
3/31
AH, WELL, HERE'S ANOTHER. WHO WANTS TO HAVE A POP QUIZ?
GOOD THING I DID LAST NIGHT'S READING!
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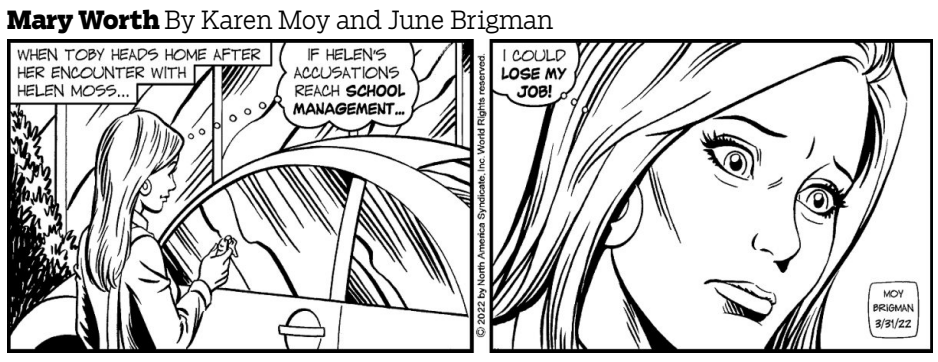
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman


WHEN TOBY HEADS HOME AFTER HER ENCOUNTER WITH HELEN MOSS...
IF HELEN'S ACCUSATIONS REACH SCHOOL MANAGEMENT...
I COULD LOSE MY JOB!
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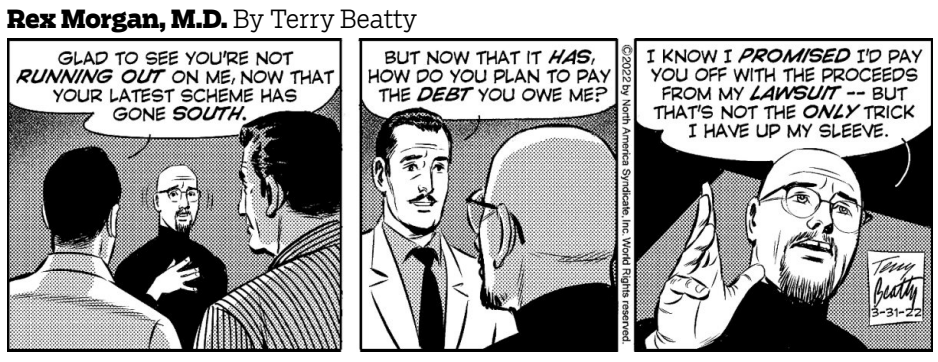
MOY BRIGMAN 3/31/22

Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty


GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE NOT RUNNING OUT ON ME, NOW THAT YOUR LATEST SCHEME HAS GONE SOUTH.
BUT NOW THAT IT HAS, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO PAY THE DEBT YOU OWE ME?
I KNOW I PROMISED I'D PAY YOU OFF WITH THE PROCEEDS FROM MY LAWSUIT -- BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY TRICK I HAVE UP MY SLEEVE.
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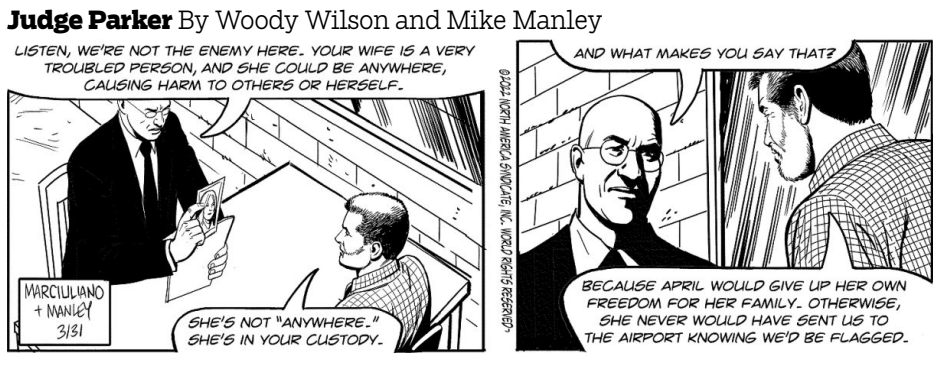
Terry Beatty 3-31-22

Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley


LISTEN, WE'RE NOT THE ENEMY HERE. YOUR WIFE IS A VERY TROUBLED PERSON, AND SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE, CAUSING HARM TO OTHERS OR HERSELF.
AND WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
MARCIULIANO + MANLEY 3/31
SHE'S NOT "ANYWHERE." SHE'S IN YOUR CUSTODY.
BECAUSE APRIL WOULD GIVE UP HER OWN FREEDOM FOR HER FAMILY. OTHERWISE, SHE NEVER WOULD HAVE SENT US TO THE AIRPORT KNOWING WE'D BE FLAGGED.
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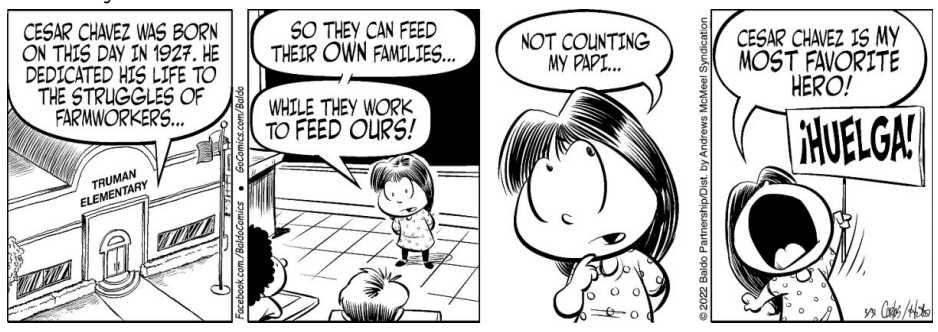
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos


CESAR CHAVEZ WAS BORN ON THIS DAY IN 1927. HE DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE STRUGGLES OF FARMWORKERS...
TRUMAN ELEMENTARY
SO THEY CAN FEED THEIR OWN FAMILIES...
WHILE THEY WORK TO FEED OURS!
GoComics.com/Baldo
Facebook.com/BaldoComics
NOT COUNTING MY PAPI...
CESAR CHAVEZ IS MY MOST FAVORITE HERO!
¡HUELGA!
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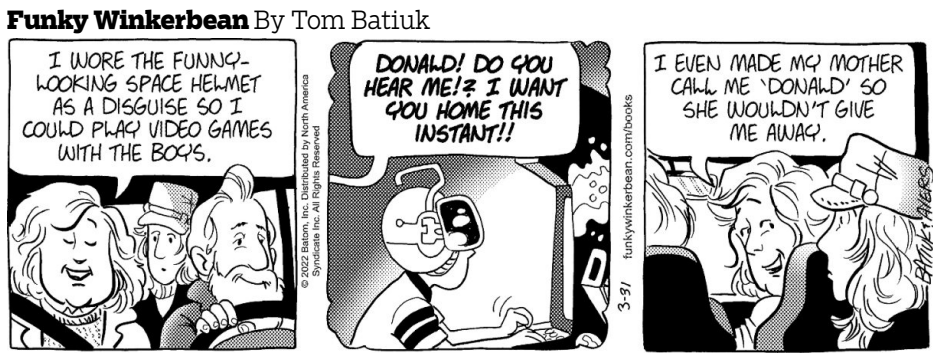
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk


I WORE THE FUNNY-LOOKING SPACE HELMET AS A DISGUISE SO I COULD PLAY VIDEO GAMES WITH THE BOYS.
DONALD! DO YOU HEAR ME!? I WANT YOU HOME THIS INSTANT!!
I EVEN MADE MY MOTHER CALL ME 'DONALD' SO SHE WOULDN'T GIVE ME AWAY.
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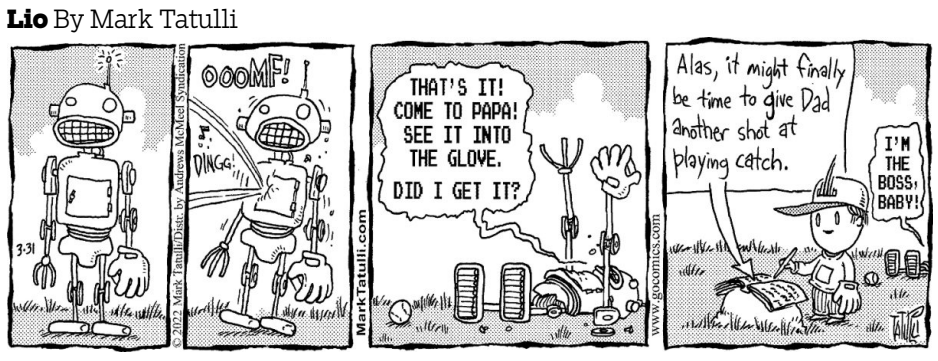
funkywinkerbean.com/books
3-31
BATIUK AMEEN

Lio By Mark Tatulli


OOOMF!
DINGG
THAT'S IT! COME TO PAPA! SEE IT INTO THE GLOVE. DID I GET IT?
Alas, it might finally be time to give Dad another shot at playing catch.
I'M THE BOSS, BABY!
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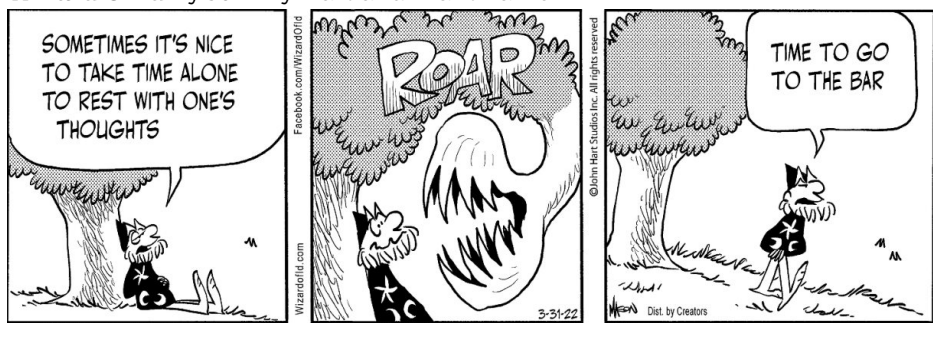
MarkTatulli.com
www.gocomics.com

Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker


SOMETIMES IT'S NICE TO TAKE TIME ALONE TO REST WITH ONE'S THOUGHTS
ROAR
TIME TO GO TO THE BAR
Facebook.com/WizardOfId
Wizardofid.com
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved
Dist. by Creators
3-31-22

Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price

THE WORKSHOP
Isn't it nice to be surrounded by your relatives?
I DID MY FAMILY TREE. DID YOU KNOW YOU'RE SITTING ON MY AUNT?
FACEBOOK.COM/RHYMESWITHORANGE.COMIC
Piccolo & Hilary B. Price ©2022 RWO STUDIOS DIST. BY KING FEATURES
3-31

Monty By Jim Meddick

ANY LUCK THINKING UP A REVENGE FOR MCONDOS'S APRIL FOOLS PRANK LAST YEAR?...
OH, YES...
YES, INDEED.
PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD THE OLD PROVERB: REVENGE IS A DISH BEST SERVED COLD...
UH... YEAH.
WELL...TA-DA!
GAZPACHO?
AND BELIEVE ME... THERE ARE ENOUGH GREEN ONIONS IN THERE, HE'LL NEVER TASTE THE EX-LAX...
©2022 JimMeddick
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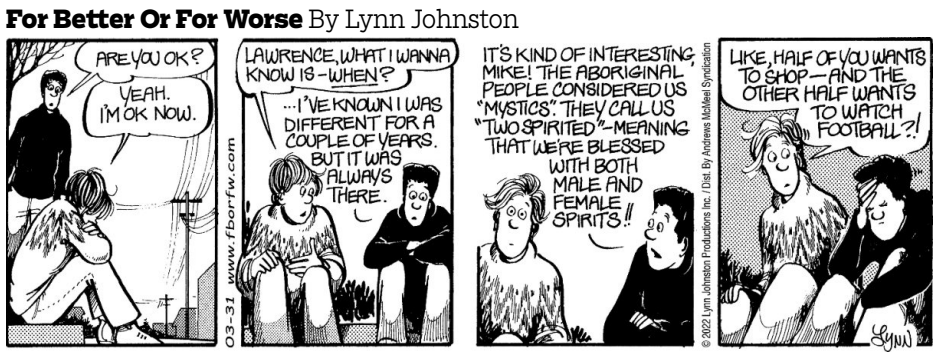
For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston


ARE YOU OK?
YEAH. I'M OK NOW.
LAWRENCE, WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS - WHEN!?
...I'VE KNOWN I WAS DIFFERENT FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS. BUT IT WAS ALWAYS THERE.
IT'S KIND OF INTERESTING, MIKE! THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE CONSIDERED US "MYSTICS". THEY CALL US "TWO SPIRITED" - MEANING THAT WE'RE BLESSED WITH BOTH MALE AND FEMALE SPIRITS!!
LIKE, HALF OF YOU WANTS TO SHOP — AND THE OTHER HALF WANTS TO WATCH FOOTBALL?!
03-31
www.fborfw.com
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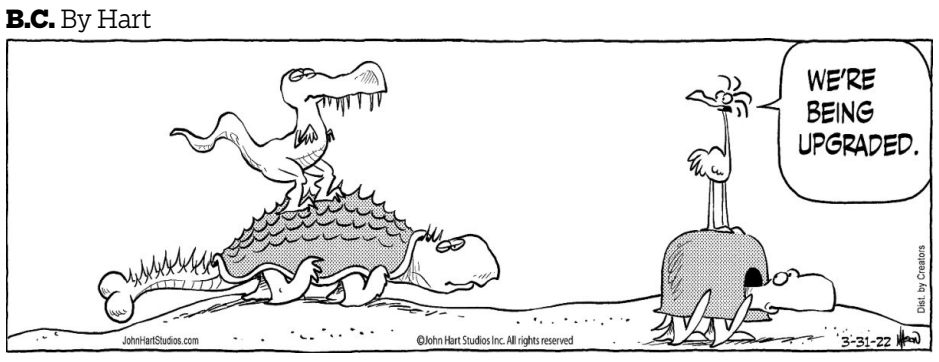
LYNN

B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker

WHAT'S WITH THAT BACKPACK?! IT'S NOT REGULATION!
IT'S A SPECIAL GIFT FROM MY NEPHEW. I MADE A PROMISE I'D USE IT
ARRGH! OKAY, JUST THIS ONE TIME!
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3/31
GREG + MORT WALKER

Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne

BASEBALL SEASON SHOULD BE STARTING SOON.
WHO DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO WIN IT ALL THIS YEAR?
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"THURSTON'S THUMPERS," MY FANTASY TEAM.
ERIC REVELS
HiandLois.com
3-31

Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne

THE QUEEN'S LAST ENTRY READS "HAGAR'S WIFE IS A VERY LUCKY WOMAN"...
SHE MUST HAVE A THING FOR ME!
3-31
"...HER NO-GOOD HUSBAND WILL GIVE HER MY JEWELRY!"
OR NOT!
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DEAR DIARY

Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller

IT'S NOT MY JOB TO UNDERSTAND IT OR TO MAKE IT EASIER BY HIRING MORE HELP, MR. SISYPHUS.
IT'S MY JOB TO KEEP IT UNDER BUDGET
GREAT MOMENTS in MIDDLE MANAGEMENT
DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION
3-31
WILEY © 2022 WILEY INK, LTD.
WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET
GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR

Curtis By Ray Billingsley

STEALING MOM'S BLUEBERRY PIE WASN'T BAD, JUST IMPULSIVE! YEAH, "IMPULSIVE"!
I'M AN IMPULSIVE MAN, AND SOMETIMES I ACT WITHOUT THINKING, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME A CRIMINAL!
3/31
I'VE DONE NOTHING TERRIBLY WRONG AND I'LL YELL MY INNOCENCE AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS!
NINETY PERCENT OF INMATES PROBABLY SAID THE SAME THING AT THEIR HEARINGS
BOYS, DINNER!
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BILLINGSLEY

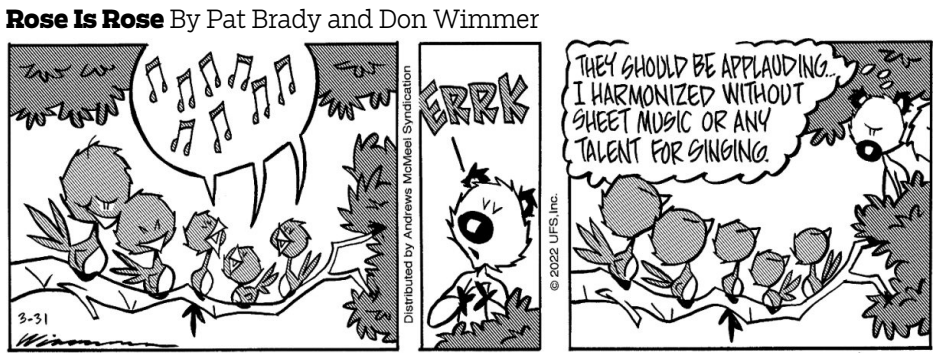
Pickles By Brian Crane

NO ONE CAN RESIST PETTING A BIG FURRY KITTY CAT.
ESPECIALLY WHEN I PURR AND RUB UP AGAINST THEIR LEG.
© 2022 Brian Crane, dist by Washington Post Writers Group
picklescomic.com
3/31
YEOW!!
HOW DARE YOU RESIST?!

Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

OH, GREAT.
MY MOM PUT ANOTHER NOTE IN MY LUNCH.
I'D BETTER STUDY IT CAREFULLY.
WHAT? WHY?
TWO WORDS: "POP QUIZ."
I FORGOT THAT HER NOTES ARE ASSIGNED READING.
©2022 JERRY SCOTT and JIM BORGMAN Dist. by King Features
zitscomics.com
SCOTT BORGMAN 3-31

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer


GRRK
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THEY SHOULD BE APPLAUDING... I HARMONIZED WITHOUT SHEET MUSIC OR ANY TALENT FOR SINGING.
3-31

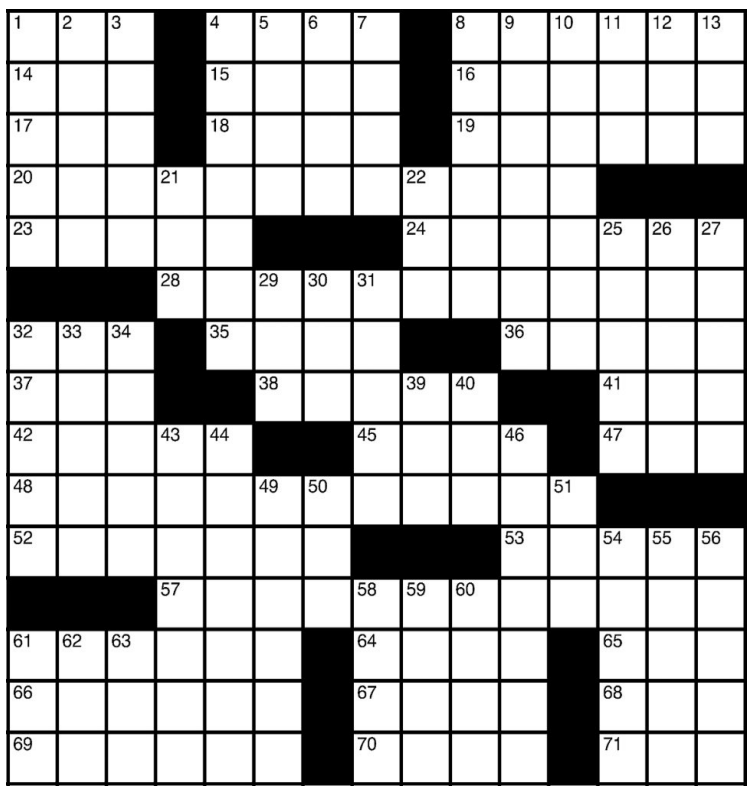
Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters

CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across
1 Day __
4 Door support
8 Keep busy
14 China shop threat
15 Native Nebraskan
16 Newcomer
17 Red crawler, perhaps
18 Patient shopper's reward
19 Bays, e.g.
20 Only way to tackle a 57-Across
23 Paper bit
24 __ only: sale caveat
28 Question muttered while tackling a 57-Across
32 Modern cash source
35 Barely flow
36 Back nine opener
37 Gunk
38 Jackson Hole's county
41 Salem's lot?: Abbr.
42 Frottage artist Max
45 13-Downs heard in pairs
47 Contacts list no.
48 Popular theme for 57-Acrosses
52 Aptly named "Music From Big Pink" group
53 Enlighten
57 Challenge commercialized by mapmaker John Spilsbury circa 1760
61 Novelist Graham
64 Sky-high stunt
65 Shade on a beach
66 Amazon delivery
67 About
68 PC rescue key
69 Outpourings
70 First-time biology student, usually
71 Friend of Fidel

Down
1 Cakes not for eating
2 Kind of button or room
3 Time-telling word
4 Margaret of "The Real Housewives of New Jersey"
5 Run __
6 "Holy __!"
7 Car talk?
8 Familiarize
9 Downfall for Narcissus
10 "Gigi" novelist
11 Usually four-stringed instrument
12 Peach center
13 "Without a doubt"
21 Crow's cry
22 Charged particle
25 "__ for You": Dylan song to his first wife
26 British bishop's headdress
27 "I Love Lucy" role
29 Up to now
30 Apt adjective for Stuart Little
31 Eye-related
32 CIA worker
33 Synagogue scroll
34 Three-card con
39 Literary homage
40 Prefix with binary
43 Sentence focus, grammatically
44 Newcomer
46 Attack
49 Marx co-author
50 '60s protest gp.
51 "Word" with who or me
54 Montezuma follower
55 Fail to match
56 Therefore
58 Dozens and dozens
59 Eroded
60 "The Thinker" has an iconic one
61 Traveler's aid, briefly
62 Knock hard
63 Time capsule time



By Lin Josephson — Tribune Content Agency 3/31/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 6
♥ Q J 9 4 3
♦ A K 5
♣ A K 2

WEST
♠ A Q 10 5 4 3
♥ K 6
♦ 10 7 4
♣ 7 6

EAST
♠ 9 2
♥ 10 8 5 2
♦ Q 9 3
♣ Q 10 9 4

SOUTH
♠ K J 8
♥ A 7
♦ J 8 6 2
♣ J 8 5 3

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Dble
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — five of spades.

Sylvia strikes again

When Sylvia first joined the club, which was soon after she started to play the game, the first reaction by the members was that the admissions committee had made a dreadful mistake in approving her application.

It was not that Sylvia played so badly — we had all seen lots of players who, despite years of experience, simply hadn't grasped the finer points of the game; rather, it was that the errors she committed were of a kind that no one had ever seen before.

But as time wore on, and as some of Sylvia's mistakes somehow miraculously worked in her favor, the membership grew more tolerant of her exotic approach to the game. In fact, her extraordinary talent for doing the wrong thing at the right time eventually became a side benefit of club membership.

One of Sylvia's earliest triumphs occurred on this hand where she was West and led a spade against three notrump. Declarer won with the jack and saw that by far the best chance to make the contract was to develop the heart suit. He also recognized that his best hope of achieving this goal was to play for Sylvia to have specifically the K-x or K-x-x of hearts, in which case leading the ace and another heart would render the defense helpless.

Accordingly, he played the ace of hearts at trick two, planning to continue with a heart. Undoubtedly, South would have made three notrump had he been playing against anyone else, but when he cashed the ace, Sylvia accidently dropped the king on it! After this, South found — to his great dismay — that there was now no way to make the contract, and Sylvia, in her own inimitable way, had triumphed again.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CALOK

BILIA

SIYETF

EARPAP

He wants the pumpkin cut in thirds.
OK, I'll just need to square the radius and multiply it by 3.141.
3/31
THE NUMBER 3.141 IS JUST A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE "___"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHIRL BISON GUTTER PALACE
Answer: The Olympic high jumpers' favorite beverage was — SPRING WATER

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TODAY'S SUDOKU

	7	8					3	
5	6		8				9	
		4	5	2				
7						9		
				8				
		9					8	2
				4	6	8		
					5		7	3
	3					4	6	

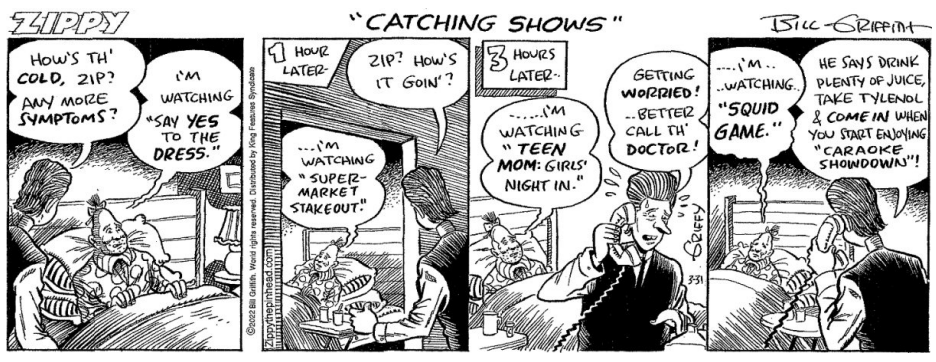
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

6	2	1	7	4	3	5	9	8
7	9	4	6	5	8	3	1	2
8	5	3	2	9	1	6	7	4
4	3	5	9	2	6	7	8	1
2	7	6	8	1	4	9	3	5
9	1	8	3	7	5	4	2	6
5	4	7	1	8	9	2	6	3
3	8	2	5	6	7	1	4	9
1	6	9	4	3	2	8	5	7

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

M	A	T		L	O	W	S			T	B	S	P	S
A	G	O		I	R	R	E	G		B	A	Y	O	U
J	A	M	E	S	C	A	A	N		A	R	C	E	D
O	V	E	R	T		I	M	U	P		T	O	M	
R	E	I	N		G	T	E		A	T	O	P		
			S	H	A	H	R	U	K	H	K	H	A	N
P	I	S	T	O	L		S	T	I	R		A	D	O
L	O	P		T	A	P		E	S	A		N	E	T
U	N	I		E	X	I	T		T	S	E	T	S	E
M	A	D	E	L	I	N	E	K	A	H	N			
		E	L	S	E		D	I	N		A	M	O	S
	E	R	A		S	A	I	D		E	C	O	L	I
A	D	M	I	T		C	O	N	A	R	T	I	S	T
P	I	A	N	O		H	U	A	N	G		S	E	A
T	E	N	E	T			S	P	A	S		T	N	T


ZIPPY
"CATCHING SHOWS"
BILL GRIFFITH
HOW'S TH' COLD, ZIP? ANY MORE SYMPTOMS?
I'M WATCHING "SAY YES TO THE DRESS."
1 HOUR LATER...
ZIP? HOW'S IT GOIN'?
...I'M WATCHING "SUPERMARKET STAKEOUT."
3 HOURS LATER...
GETTING WORRIED! ..BETTER CALL TH' DOCTOR!
.....I'M WATCHING "TEEN MOM: GIRLS' NIGHT IN."
...I'M.. ..WATCHING.. "SQUID GAME."
HE SAYS DRINK PLENTY OF JUICE, TAKE TYLENOL & COME IN WHEN YOU START ENJOYING "CARAOKE SHOWDOWN"!
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GRIFFY
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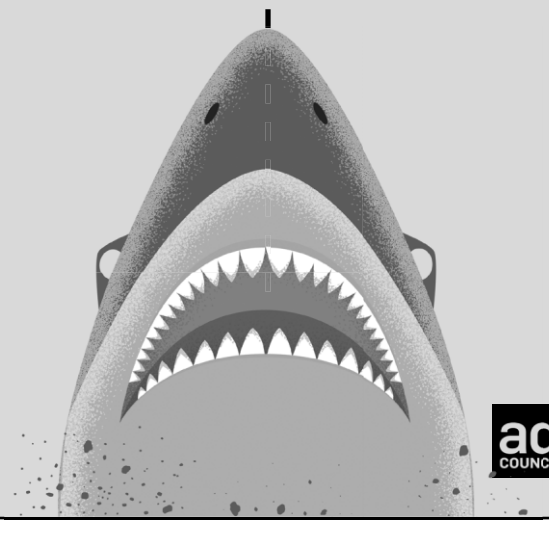

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Hartford Courant
SPORTS
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UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Guard exodus continues

Junior Gaffney enters name in transfer portal

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

The UConn men's basketball team is losing another guard as junior Jalen Gaffney will be entering the NCAA transfer portal, a UConn source confirmed on Wednesday.

He will have two years of eligibility left.

Gaffney was the backup point guard to R.J. Cole during the 2021-22 season. He averaged four points and 1.5 assists. He struggled with consistency throughout the season and played a career-low 12.8 minutes per game.

This marks the second Husky to enter the transfer portal, as guard Rahsool Diggins entered on Tuesday. Gaffney's move was first reported by Gavin Keefe of the New London Day.

UConn coach Dan Hurley emphasized the transfer portal will be used to fill in the gaps left behind by guards Cole and Tyrese Martin, who departed to turn pro. With Cole gone and Diggins and Gaffney in the portal, the Huskies' roster lacks point guards.

Andre Jackson is the only player on the current roster to have played significant minutes at point guard. The other guards on the

Turn to Gaffney, Page 4

UConn's Jalen Gaffney dribbles up the court during a game against Seton Hall at the Big East tournament on March 10 in New York. **FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP**

RED SOX

Room for his utility

Even with Bradley back, Sox will rely on Hernández in center

By Tara Sullivan
Boston Globe

FORT MYERS, Fla. — One time was bad enough, but twice ...

"That's twice too many," said Kiké Hernández.

The problem? Hernández, utility-player-turned-every-day-center-fielder in the final part of the 2021 season, was having trouble with high fly balls off the Fenway Park wall. When the second one had the audacity to bounce back over his head, Hernández, a prideful and versatile defensive player, decided it was time to figure things out.

"I asked our video people to set up some videos of Jackie playing balls off the wall," Hernández recalled, "just to see how he positioned himself."

That would be Jackie Bradley Jr., who, alongside Fred Lynn, is one of the two best defensive center fielders in franchise history. For the first eight years of his career in Boston, before leaving in 2020 for a two-year deal in Milwaukee, JBJ put on a nightly clinic in outfield defense, and not merely in the superior skills he showed in catching and throwing the ball.

As Hernández proved in seeking out those videos, Bradley had the mental-preparation side of defense down cold too, understanding everything from weather conditions to batters' tendencies to help him anticipate where a ball would go and then putting himself, as if by magic to the untrained eye, in the right place to make the play.

"From afar, he was always my favorite center fielder because most center fielders are, like, burners," said Hernández. "Jackie's like me, not the fastest of center fielders. I admired that, and always thought that's the guy, if I was playing center field, I would be like him. I think we're similar in a lot of ways.

"Now that I'm here, I get to learn from him in person."

That's because Bradley is back, reacquired via the Hunter Renfroe trade with Milwaukee, with the Red Sox willing to take on his contract and his all-time-low batting average (.163 in 134 games) in exchange

Turn to Sox, Page 2

Inside

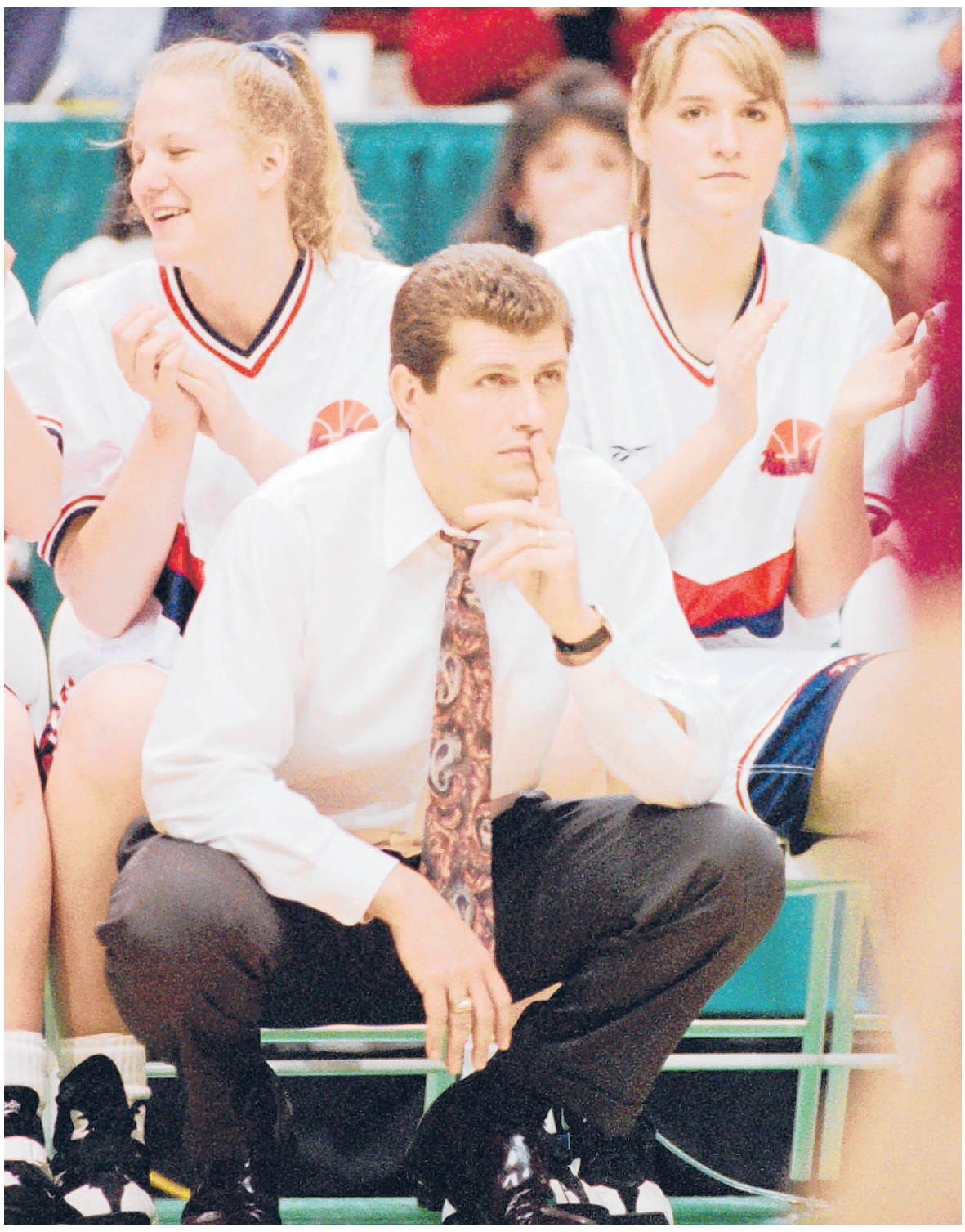
■ Alex Cora gives test run to potential Opening Day lineup, with strong results. **Page 2**
■ Luis Severino turning focus to first big league start since 2019. **Page 2**

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT FINAL FOUR

Louisville (29-4) vs. South Carolina (33-2)
When: Friday, 7 p.m.
Where: Target Center, Minneapolis
TV: ESPN
How they got here: South Carolina won Greensboro Regional, Louisville won Wichita Regional

UConn (29-5) vs. Stanford (32-3)
When: Friday, 9:30 p.m.
Where: Target Center, Minneapolis
TV: ESPN
How they got here: UConn won Bridgeport Regional, Stanford won Spokane Regional

Coming full circle



UConn coach Geno Auriemma keeps a watchful eye on the court during the Huskies' 87-60 win over Stanford on April 1, 1995, in a national semifinal of the NCAA Tournament in Minneapolis. **AP FILE**

Memories of 1995: In many ways, it all started for Huskies in Minneapolis

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

MINNEAPOLIS — Whenever Carla Berube sees the 1995 Final Four logo, all purple and orange and green with the crooked lettering that spells out "NCAA Women's Final Four '95" — it brings her right back walking into the Target Center and seeing the logo painted at half court in April 1995, her sophomore year at UConn.

Berube, now the Princeton coach, doesn't remember where the team stayed or what they did off the court — other than visit the Mall of America. But she remembers the games against Stanford and Tennessee and the feelings she had when UConn beat both storied programs to go undefeated and win its first national title.

"How many years now? Twenty-seven years?" she said Wednesday as she headed back to the city for the first time since 1995 for this year's Final Four. "That's a long time."

And this year's Huskies will face Stanford, the same opponent UConn faced on the same date — April 1 — 27 years later, on Friday in the national semifinal game.

On Tuesday, UConn coach Geno Auriemma waxed nostalgic about heading back to Minneapolis where it all started, and the 1995 championship game that essentially took his program to the next level. UConn beat the Lady Vols 70-64 in an iconic game after

Turn to UConn, Page 4

UConn's Rebecca Lobo drives past Stanford's Olympia Scott during the 1995 Final Four game against Stanford. Lobo would lead the Huskies to the national title two nights later with a win over Tennessee. **AP FILE**

Stanford coach Tara VanDeveer yells instructions to her team during the game against North Carolina in the NCAA Tournament on March 23, 1995, in Los Angeles. **LOS ANGELES TIMES FILE**

Inside

The best games in the history of the UConn-Stanford rivalry. **Page 4**

COMING SATURDAY
Due to the late Friday tipoff in Minneapolis, coverage of UConn's game with Stanford will be included in a special 4-page e-edition section, available early Saturday at **courant.com**

Safety Tip of the Day

Clear away any items from around your furnace that may catch fire from heat. Some families use their furnace room for storage or laundry. If your furnace room has more than once purpose, make sure you keep this room as organized as possible.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn WBB: NCAA Final Four vs. Stanford, Friday, 9:30 p.m.; NCAA Championship (if necessary) vs. TBD, Sunday, 8 p.m.
Celtics: Pacers, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Wizards, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Bulls, Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Knicks: Cavaliers, Saturday, 1 p.m.; at Magic, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Nets, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: Bucks, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Hawks, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Rockets, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Bruins: Devils, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Blue Jackets, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Blue Jackets, Monday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: Islanders, Friday, 7 p.m.; Flyers, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Devils, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Belleville, Friday, 7 p.m.; Syracuse, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Providence, Monday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASEBALL
1 p.m.: Detroit Tigers at Toronto Blue Jays. (Live) SPRTNET
1 p.m.: New York Yankees at Philadelphia Phillies. (Live) MLB
4 p.m.: Los Angeles Dodgers at Texas Rangers. (Live) MLB
7 p.m.: Auburn at LSU. (Live) SEC
8 p.m.: Florida at Georgia. (Live) ESPN2
BASKETBALL
12 p.m.: GEICO Nationals: Quarterfinal, Oak Hill Academy (VA) at Link Academy (MO). (Live) ESPNU
2 p.m.: GEICO Nationals, Quarterfinal: AZ Compass (AZ) at Montverde (FL). (Live) ESPNU
4 p.m.: GEICO Nationals: Quarterfinal, La Lumiere (IN) at IMG Academy (FL). (Live) ESPNU
6 p.m.: GEICO Nationals, Quarterfinal: Prolific Prep (CA) at Sunrise Christian (KS). (Live) ESPNU
7 p.m.: NIT Final. (Live) ESPN
7:30 p.m.: Bucks at Nets. (Live), TNT, YES
9 p.m.: State Farm College Slam Dunk & 3-Point Championships. (Live) ESPN
10 p.m.: Lakers at Jazz. (Live) TNT
GOLF
12 p.m.: The Chevron Championship, First Round. (Live) GOLF
4 p.m.: Valero Texas Open, First Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Devils at Bruins. (Live), NESN
11 p.m.: Stars at Ducks. (Live) SPRTNET
LACROSSE
7 p.m.: Women's College: Ohio State at Louisville. (Live) ACC
TENNIS
1 p.m.: ATP/WTA Tennis Miami Open, ATP Quarterfinal 3, WTA Semifinal 1. (Live) TENNIS
7 p.m.: ATP/WTA Tennis Miami Open, ATP Quarterfinal 4, WTA Semifinal 2. (Live) TENNIS

The Mets' Mark Canha bats during a spring training game against the Marlins on March 24 in Port St. Lucie, Florida. **SUE OGROCKI/AP**

METS NOTES

'It feels like I've been there, done that'

Canha is taking the shorter spring training in stride

By Deesha Thosar
New York Daily News

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Mark Canha will play his eighth season in Major League Baseball this year.

Typically, veterans like Canha are creatures of habit regarding their routines. But so much about Canha's next major-league season will feature major changes — a new division, a new team and a new home in a different city, to name a few — that he's at the point where he's taking it all in stride.

The Mets signed Canha, a California native, to a two-year, $26.5 million contract this offseason. The outfielder previously played for the Oakland Athletics from 2015-2021. Off the field, he wants to fully experience the Big Apple, so Canha and his family will live in Manhattan this year. On the field, Canha isn't worried about adapting to the National League for the first time in his big-league career.

"There's going to be a certain amount of a learning curve as the regular season starts for everybody," Canha said. "It's for pitchers, it's for hitters. It's for everything."

Canha was referencing, in part, the shorter spring training that players have endured this season following a delayed start to camp due to the owners' lockout. Compared to the typical six weeks of camp and 25 or so games, teams are participating in a four-week spring training with just 15 games.

So far, Canha is slashing .235/.235/.471 with a home run, three RBI and a run scored across 17 at-bats and five games. With less than a week until camp breaks, Canha said he feels like his experience in the game has prepared him well for the shorter spring.

"I feel OK," Canha said. "I feel like I've been there, done that. I've done this enough times to kind of know how to treat a spring training. So I feel like I've done that pretty well, managing my workload."

Canha, who has a career .344 on-base percentage, will be a prominent part of the Mets lineup in part because he's so good at working pitchers. Like Brandon Nimmo, Canha has terrific plate discipline. His watchful eye has led to a solid understanding of the strike zone, something Buck Showalter is looking forward to in the regular season because it will get the opponent's starting pitcher out of the game that much sooner.

Lindor stays hot: Francisco Lindor walked into work on Wednesday morning with an obvious pep in his step. He turned on a personal playlist, blasted it on the clubhouse speakers, then jumped and danced at his locker. It was a vibe. And why shouldn't the Mets star shortstop, nicknamed "Mr. Smile," be in a great mood after the camp that he's had?

Lindor cranked his fourth home run in 20 plate appearances on Tuesday against the Marlins, continuing his hot spring training that's featured a .474/.500/1.211 slashline in just six games and 19 at-bats. The Mets manager joked on Wednesday he wouldn't mind sending Lindor back to New York a week before the regular season begins, so the shortstop can save some power for when it will count.

But, when asked, Lindor said he is not putting any importance on his hot start to spring because, well, he had a terrific camp last year, too. And we all know how his 2021 season turned out. So the shortstop is focused on staying balanced at the plate, and bringing that approach to the regular season when the Mets take on the Nationals on April 7.

Nine months after the Mets dumped their longtime general counsel David Cohen, the front office hired legal specialist Katie Pothier to replace him.

Pothier was named the Mets executive vice president and chief legal officer on Wednesday. She previously worked for the Texas Rangers since 2016 and crossed paths with team president Sandy Alderson while serving in a similar role for the San Diego Padres from 2002-2010. Pothier has over a decade of experience working in professional baseball, in addition to over 25 years of legal experience.

"Katie is very talented and will be a great leader in our organization," Alderson said. "Her legal and baseball experience make her a welcomed addition to our team."

Cohen was fired by the Mets last June following an internal review of the team's culture by law firm WilmerHale. The internal review began after a series of sexual misconduct issues within the Mets organization.

YANKEES

Severino turning his focus to first big league start since 2019

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

TAMPA, Fla. — Luis Severino is getting ready for April 9, his first start back in the Big Apple.

After being pushed back this week from a spring training start because of what he described as soreness and tightness in his whole right arm, including his forearm, after his last start, Severino felt good after he threw a 31-pitch bullpen Wednesday.

And he's turned his focus to finishing up spring training and making his first regular season big league start in nearly three years.

"That's my mindset right now; getting ready for my first start in New York," Severino said before the Yankees took on the Blue Jays Wednesday night. "I think they say if everything goes well tomorrow, if I feel good tomorrow, I think I have a start on Saturday."

Severino is tentatively scheduled to pitch his final spring training tuneup on Saturday against the World Series champion Braves at George M. Steinbrenner Field. If that goes well, he will be the Yankees No. 2 starter behind Gerrit Cole, starting the second game of the regular season against the Boston Red Sox.

The red flags were raised when Severino talked about the soreness and tightness after throwing 49 pitches in a start on March 25, because of his recent history with injuries. The 28-year-old right-hander hasn't made a regular-season start since 2019 and has pitched just 18 regular-season innings since the beginning of that season.

After signing a four-year, $40 million extension in spring 2019, Severino was shut down from his first Grapefruit League start that year with shoulder soreness. It eventually turned out to be a partially torn lat muscle, which kept him out until September.

He returned to pitch in the Yankees playoff run, but that led to a torn ulnar collateral ligament which required Tommy John surgery. He missed all of the COVID-19-abbreviated 2020 season and was expected back in mid-2021, but suffered a groin injury during rehab and then had shoulder discomfort, which held up his return.

All of that flashed through Severino's mind when he woke up after an ugly outing against the Phillies last Thursday.

"I mean, it was [concerning] at the beginning, because you're thinking of everything in the past with me," Severino said. "The next day I was worried, but I got better the next day and the day after that too. So... I was feeling good about my arm."

Severino threw 49 pitches in 1.2 innings of work against the Phillies last Friday, allowing three earned runs on four hits. He walked four in his last outing.

Severino said he never felt anything wrong with his arm in his last start, it was just when he woke up the next day.

YANKEES NOTES

Balkovec improving but still out after taking batted ball to face

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

TAMPA, Fla. — More than a week after she was hit in the face by a batted ball, Rachel Balkovec is doing better but still sidelined, according to Vice President of Player Development Kevin Reese.

"I saw her last night. She's starting to feel better. I think she's getting close to being back on the field," Reese said.

She was hit in the face during a hitting drill in the batting cages at the Yankees' Player Development site on March 22. Reese said she did not suffer a concussion but had some other medical issues.

Balkovec was scheduled to make history this spring as the first woman to manage a team in affiliated baseball. The Yankees announced she would manage the low Class-A Tarpons this season.

Reese would not say if she would be ready for the Tarpons' season opener April 8.

"Just knowing Rachel the way I do, I don't know. You know that the doctors have to sign off on some things and whatnot," Reese said. "But I think she's eager to get back out there."

Team building: The Yankees' players spent over an hour before Wednesday's game watching as front office and team support personnel tried out their jobs. With the players laughing, and sometimes cheering, they watched as baseball operations, analytics, public relations and clubhouse workers took batting practice, raced around the bases and tried to catch pop-ups.

"It was awesome. I've had a lot of guys, players, coaches, whoever talk about that that's one of the best things we've done," Aaron Boone said. "Usually we do a team building thing every spring. This year has been a little different with the quick turnaround."

Sox

from Page 1

for a known, well-respected quantity in the clubhouse. Not in the deal was a full-time return to center field, however, and Wednesday's spring lineup was more indicative of what manager Alex Cora plans for the season.

That would be Hernández in center, Bradley in right, and Alex Verdugo in left. With the light-hitting Bradley destined to platoon, Hernández's status as a full-time starter and regular leadoff hitter allows him to bring more consistency to the outfield defense. And putting a Gold Glover in right has to help the overall product, right?

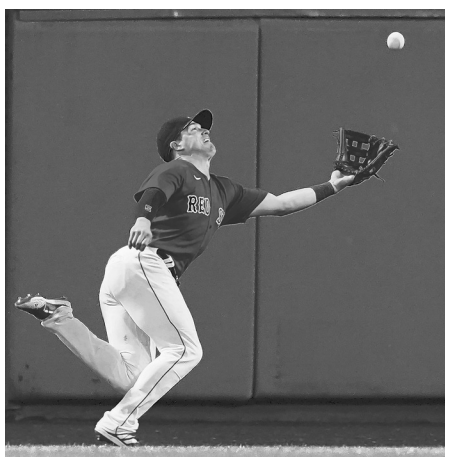
That's why Cora is convinced (or at least he is trying to convince us) that the combination can rival the outstanding "Killer B's" outfield of Bradley, Mookie Betts, and Andrew Benintendi that won a World Series in 2018.

"Mookie and Jackie were really good. I think defensively these two, they have a chance if they put it all together to be better," Cora said. "We consider them both elite. The first jump is great. Their instincts are great and obviously the arm is in play.

"They've done an amazing job of helping everybody out with defense. And Alex in left field, he was solid last year, but just having those two in drills and talking to the guys, letting them know what they think, talking about the first step and routes, it's been great."

Really? *Better* than Bradley and Betts?

"We have a chance to be great defensively. We do," Cora insisted. "You see the tool set, what they do. Hopefully the feeling is if you hit it in the air, we're going to catch it."



Red Sox center fielder Kike Hernandez catches a long fly ball hit by the Royals' Hanser Alberto during the fifth inning of a game at Fenway Park on June 30, 2021, in Boston. **ELISE AMENDOLA/AP**

Hernández is at the center of it now, the de facto quarterback whose voice has to ring loudest.

"For me, the biggest adjustment is going to have to be hearing someone else be the leader of the outfield," Bradley said. "My voice isn't, when I say 'I got it,' usually it's 'I got it and everybody gets out of the way.' I just think that's going to be the difference-maker for me.

"I don't think it's an emotional adjustment. It's just something to get used to. You never know; I could play center as well. I can move around. I could play left. I'm not sure how they want the alignment on certain games, certain places. But I do know that I'll just do what I need to do.

"I'll play where I'm told to be, and I think I can play it exceptionally well."

RED SOX NOTES

Cora gives test run to potential Opening Day lineup, sees some positive results

By Peter Abraham
Boston Globe

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The lineup Alex Cora put together to play the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday is probably what fans will see against the Yankees and Gerrit Cole on Opening Day next week.

"Very close," the manager said.

It had Kiké Hernández leading off followed by Rafael Devers, Xander Bogaerts, J.D. Martinez, Alex Verdugo, Trevor Story, Bobby Dalbec, Jackie Bradley Jr. and Christian Vázquez.

Cora wants to spread his left-handed hitters out, which is why Devers is second and Verdugo fifth.

"I'm loving Raffy hitting second," Cora said. "He loved it in '19 [when he had a 1.032 OPS in 335 plate appearances from that spot].

"There's going to be a few times when he'll hit lower, probably against lefties. But against righties, probably that's where he's going to be."

Cora suggested Story could hit second against left-handers, with Devers batting cleanup.

Devers returned the love against the Braves with a two-run homer over everything in left field off Ian Anderson. The starters were 10-for-23 with four extra-base hits in a 10-7 victory.

Story was 1-for-2 with an RBI single and a walk in his first Grapefruit League game.

Uneven start for Houck: Tanner Houck allowed one run on five hits over four innings against the Braves. He struck out four without a walk.

"It was a lot better today," Houck said.

Cora didn't necessarily agree. Houck also hit two batters, threw a wild pitch and had scattershot command of his fastball.

"He was OK," Cora said. "I believe we have to stay in the zone a little more. There was a lot of traffic out there.

"Getting that fastball in the [strike] zone is very important for us."

Houck has put 19 runners on base over nine innings in three starts. He has one more start in Florida before facing the Yankees in the third game of the season.

"I think a lot of it is overdoing it, reaching back and trying to reach higher on the velo," Houck said.

Houck felt he showed improvement against the Braves. The Sox will want to see more Monday.

Edge to Hill?: Rich Hill and Garrett Whitlock are competing for a rotation spot, or so the Sox say. But Cora said Whitlock would be available out of the bullpen on Opening Day. Hill is starting Friday's game at Tampa Bay while Whitlock is scheduled to pitch in a minor-league game. ... Right-handed reliever Hansel Robles, who was signed to a minor-league deal March 21, has been delayed in the Dominican Republic on a visa issue but could arrive Thursday night. ... Many Sox regulars have been getting extra at-bats in minor-league games this spring.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	47	29	.618	—
Philadelphia	46	29	.613	½
Toronto	43	32	.573	3 ½
Brooklyn	40	36	.526	7
New York	34	42	.447	13

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
y-Miami	48	28	.632	—
Charlotte	39	37	.513	9
Atlanta	38	37	.507	9 ½
Washington	32	43	.427	15 ½
Orlando	20	56	.263	28

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	47	28	.627	—
Chicago	44	32	.579	3 ½
Cleveland	42	33	.560	5
Indiana	25	51	.329	22 ½
Detroit	20	56	.263	27 ½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Memphis	53	23	.697	—
Dallas	47	29	.618	6
New Orleans	32	43	.427	20 ½
San Antonio	31	44	.413	21 ½
Houston	20	56	.263	33

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	45	31	.592	—
Denver	45	31	.592	—
Minnesota	43	33	.566	2
Portland	27	48	.360	17 ½
Oklahoma City	22	53	.293	22 ½

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
z-Phoenix	61	14	.813	—
Golden State	48	28	.632	13 ½
L.A. Clippers	37	39	.487	24 ½
L.A. Lakers	31	44	.413	30
Sacramento	27	49	.355	34 ½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Dallas at Cleveland, late
Denver at Indiana, late
Orlando at Washington, late
Charlotte at New York, late
Miami at Boston, late
Minnesota at Toronto, late
Atlanta at Oklahoma City, late
Sacramento at Houston, late
Memphis at San Antonio, late
New Orleans at Portland, late
Phoenix at Golden State, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia at Detroit, 7p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Milwaukee at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Chicago, 8p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Utah, 10p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Dallas at Washington, 7p.m.
Toronto at Orlando, 7p.m.
Indiana at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Detroit at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
Phoenix at Memphis, 8p.m.
Sacramento at Houston, 8p.m.
Portland at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Minnesota at Denver, 9p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, 10:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago 107, Washington 94
Milwaukee 118, Philadelphia 116
Dallas 128, L.A. Lakers 110
Brooklyn 130, Detroit 123
L.A. Clippers 121, Utah 115

NBA SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD FINALISTS
Atlantic: Ptty Mills (Brooklyn)
Southeast: Bam Adebayo (Miami)
Central: Darius Garland (Cleveland)
Northwest: Jeff Green (Denver)
Southwest: Jaren Jackson Jr. (Memphis)
Pacific: Mikal Bridges (Phoenix)

TWYMAN STOKES TEAMMATE OF THE YEAR AWARD. FINALISTS

DeMar DeRozan	F/G	(Chicago)
Rudy Gay	SF	(Utah)
Jeff Green	PF	(Denver)
Udonis Haslem	PF	(Miami)
Jrue Holiday	SG	(Milwaukee)
Andre Iguodala	F/G	(Golden State)
Jaren Jackson Jr.	PF	(Memphis)
Kevin Love	F/C	(Cleveland)
Boban Marjanovic	C	(Dallas)
Chris Paul	PG	(Phoenix)
Fred VanVleet	SG	(Toronto)
Grant Williams	PF	(Boston)

SEASON LEADERS

TOUCHES/GM	TM	TCH	TOP	SPT
Nikola Jokic	Den	98.7	4.2	2.58
Luka Doncic	Dal	91.3	9.3	6.12
James Harden	Phi	91.1	9.2	6.07
Dejounte Murray	SA	87.8	7.4	5.07
LeBron James	LAL	87.4	6.2	4.27
LaMelo Ball	Char	86.8	6.1	4.21
Fred VanVleet	Tor	86.2	6.6	4.56
Darius Garland	Cle	86.1	7.8	5.41
Trae Young	Atl	83.2	8.7	6.26
De'Aaron Fox	Sac	82.8	6.3	4.57
Kyle Lowry	Mia	82.2	5.1	3.70
Damian Lillard	Por	82.1	7.2	5.29

TCH-touches; TOP-time of possession, SPT-seconds per touch; throug hTue.

TENNIS

MIAMI OPEN
At Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Fla., hardcourt-outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
Francisco Cerundolo d. #9 Jannik Sinner, 4-1, retired
#2Alexander Zverev vs. #6 Casper Ruud, late
WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#16 Jessica Pegula d. #5 Paula Badosa, 4-1, retired
#2Iga Swiatek d. #28 Petra Kvitova, 6-3, 6-3.

ANDALUCIA OPEN
At Club de Tennis Puente Romano, Marbella, Spain, outdoors-hard
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
Chun-Hsin Tseng d. Elias Ymer, 6-4, 7-5.
Pablo Andujar d. Yannick Hanfmann, 6-4, 6-0.
Jiri Vesely d. Norbert Gombos, 6-4, 7-6(5).
Roberto Carballes-Baena d. Federico Gaio, 6-4, 7-6(4).
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
Panna Udvardy d. Nastasja Schunk, 6-3, 7-6(2).
Danka Kovinic d. Elina Avanesyan, 6-3, 6-4.
Martina Trevisan d. Anna-Lena Friedsam, 6-1, 6-4.
Tamara Korpatsch d. Arantxa Rus, 6-0, 6-7(5), 6-3.

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL		THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
Fresno State	3	at Coastal Carolina
at Texas A&M	4	Xavier
MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT		**SATURDAY**
Kansas	4	Villanova
Duke	4	North Carolina
WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT		**FRIDAY**
South Carolina	9	Louisville
Stanford	1½	UConn
WOMEN's NIT SEMIFINALS		**THURSDAY**
S. Dakota State	7½	UCLA
Seton Hall	off	Mid Tennessee

source: bovada.lv

NBA			THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
Philadelphia	11	(222½)	at Detroit
at Brooklyn	1½	(238)	Milwaukee
at Atlanta	off	(off)	Cleveland
at Chicago	3½	(223½)	LA Clippers
at Utah	11½	(225)	LA Lakers

NHL			THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Florida	-357	Chicago	+276
at Carolina	-500	Montreal	+375
at Toronto	-209	Winnipeg	+175
at NY Islanders	-188	Columbus	+155
at Boston	-263	New Jersey	+213
at Minnesota	-117	Pittsburgh	-103
at Colorado	-321	San Jose	+250
at Calgary	-255	Los Angeles	+205
Dallas	-176	at Anaheim	+146

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	66	45	15	6	96	271	195
Tampa Bay	66	42	18	6	90	219	185
Toronto	66	42	19	5	89	245	201
Boston	66	41	20	5	87	204	180
Detroit	66	26	32	8	60	189	253
Buffalo	67	24	33	10	58	184	237
Ottawa	66	23	37	6	52	171	217
Montreal	67	18	38	11	47	173	254
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	67	44	15	8	96	225	161
N.Y. Rangers	67	43	19	5	91	206	174
Pittsburgh	68	40	18	10	90	227	182
Washington	68	37	21	10	84	225	197
Columbus	67	32	30	5	69	219	250
N.Y. Islanders	65	29	27	9	67	178	181
New Jersey	66	24	37	5	53	203	239
Philadelphia	67	21	35	11	53	172	237

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	67	47	14	6	100	255	185
Minnesota	65	41	20	4	86	241	203
Nashville	67	39	24	4	82	221	195
St. Louis	65	36	20	9	81	230	188
Dallas	65	37	25	3	77	192	194
Winnipeg	67	32	25	10	74	209	207
Chicago	67	24	33	10	58	184	235
Arizona	66	20	41	5	45	168	240
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Calgary	66	40	18	8	88	232	162
Los Angeles	68	36	23	9	81	196	194
Edmonton	67	37	25	5	79	233	216
Vegas	68	36	28	4	76	216	206
Vancouver	68	32	27	9	73	193	195
San Jose	65	29	28	8	66	173	204
Anaheim	68	27	30	11	65	191	221
Seattle	66	21	39	6	48	176	233

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Winnipeg at Buffalo, late
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, late
Los Angeles at Edmonton, late
San Jose at Arizona, late
St. Louis at Vancouver, late
Vegas at Seattle, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Florida, 7p.m.
Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, 7p.m.
Montreal at Carolina, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Boston, 7p.m.
Winnipeg at Toronto, 7p.m.
Pittsburgh at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Los Angeles at Calgary, 9p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 9p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 10p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Nashville at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Ottawa at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 9p.m.
Vegas at Seattle, 10p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 10:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 2
N.Y. Islanders 4, Columbus 3
Toronto 6, Boston 4
Tampa Bay 4, Carolina 3(OT)
Florida 7, Montreal 4
Minnesota 4, Philadelphia 1
Nashville 4, Ottawa 1
Colorado 2, Calgary 1
Dallas 3, Anaheim 2

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Philadelphia	3	0	1	10	7	2
Columbus	2	0	2	8	10	5
Chicago	2	0	2	8	5	1
Orlando City	2	1	2	8	5	3
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	1	1	7	8	4
Atlanta	2	1	1	7	8	8
D.C. United	2	2	0	6	5	4
Charlotte FC	2	3	0	6	6	7
Cincinnati	2	3	0	6	5	10
New York City FC	1	2	1	4	4	4
New England	1	2	1	4	6	8
Toronto FC	1	2	1	4	5	8
CF Montréal	0	3	1	1	5	11
Inter Miami CF	0	3	1	1	2	10
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PT**	**GF**	**GA**
Los Angeles FC	3	0	1	10	9	2
Real Salt Lake	3	1	1	10	6	4
Minnesota United	2	0	2	8	4	2
Austin FC	2	1	1	7	11	3
FC Dallas	2	1	1	7	7	3
Colorado	2	1	1	7	6	4
LA Galaxy	2	2	0	6	4	4
Kansas City	2	3	0	6	4	8
Portland	1	1	3	6	6	8
Houston	1	1	2	5	3	3
Seattle	1	2	1	4	4	5
Nashville	1	2	1	4	3	5
San Jose	0	3	1	1	4	9
Vancouver	0	3	1	1	2	9

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
FC Dallas at Chicago, 3:30p.m.
CF Montréal at Cincinnati, 4p.m.
New York City FC at Toronto FC, 4p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 6p.m.
Atlanta at D.C. United, 7:30p.m.
New York at New England, 7:30p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Orlando City, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte FC at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m.
Austin FC at San Jose, 7:30p.m.
Houston at Miami, 8p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Sporting KC at Vancouver, 8p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Colorado, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCH
LA Galaxy at Portland, 4:30p.m.

NWSL CHALLENGE CUP
WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Gotham FC at Orlando, late
Gotham FC at Orlando, late
North Carolina at Washington, late
North Carolina at Washington, late
Louisville at Chicago, late
Kansas City at Houston, late
Angel City FC at Portland, late

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Louisville at Kansas City, 3p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 8p.m..
Angel City FC at San Diego FC, 4p.m.
OL Reign at Portland, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
North Carolina at Gotham FC, 3p.m.
Orlando at Washington, 4p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	29	22	4	3	68	18	70
Liverpool	29	21	6	2	75	20	69
Chelsea	28	17	8	3	57	19	59
Arsenal	28	17	3	8	44	31	54
Tottenham	29	16	3	10	47	36	51
Man United	29	14	8	7	48	40	50
West Ham	30	14	6	10	49	39	48
Wolverhampton	30	14	4	12	31	26	46
Aston Villa	29	11	3	15	41	40	36
Leicester	27	10	6	11	42	46	36
Southampton	29	8	11	10	36	45	35
Crystal Palace	29	7	13	9	39	38	34
Brighton	29	7	12	10	26	36	33
Newcastle	29	7	10	12	32	49	31
Brentford	30	8	6	16	33	47	30
Leeds	30	7	8	15	34	67	29
Everton	27	7	4	16	29	47	25
Watford	29	6	4	19	29	55	22
Burnley	27	3	12	12	22	38	21
Norwich	29	4	5	20	18	63	17

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Liverpool vs. Watford, 7:30a.m.
Brighton vs. Norwich, 10a.m.
Burnley vs. Man City, 10a.m.
Chelsea vs. Brentford, 10a.m.
Leeds vs. Southampton, 10a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Aston Villa, 10a.m.
Man United vs. Leicester, 12:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
West Ham vs. Everton, 9a.m.
Tottenham vs. Newcastle, 11:30a.m.

MONDAY'S MATCH
Crystal Palace vs. Arsenal, 3p.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE
q-Wednesday: at Costa Rica, late
q-World Cup qualifying

U.S. WOMEN'S SCHEDULE
April 9: vs. Uzbekistan, at Lower.com Field, Columbus, Ohio, 5:30 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S NIT
Madison Square Garden, New York City
THURSDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
Xavier vs. Texas A&M., 7p.m.
TUESDAY'S SEMIFINALS
Xavier 84, Saint Bonaventure 77
Texas A&M 72, Washington 56

THE BASKETBALL CLASSIC
THURSDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
Coastal Carolina vs. Fresno Stte, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT
FINAL FOUR
Target Center, Minneapolis
Friday's National Semifinals
South Carolina vs. Louisville, 7p.m.
Stanford vs. UConn, 9:30p.m.

WOMEN'S NIT
Francis S. Levien Gymnasium, New York
THURSDAY'S SEMIFINAL
Middle Tenn. vs. Seton Hall, 7:30p.m.
South Dakota St. vs. UCLA, 8p.m.
Saturday's Championship
SHU/MTSU vs. SDSU/UCLA, TBD

NAISMITH WOMEN'S AWARDS

PLAYER OF YEAR	COLLEGE	P	CL
2022 Aliyah Boston	S. Carolina	F	Jr
2021 Paige Bueckers	UConn	G	Fr
2020 Sabrina Ionesc	Oregon	G	Sr
2019 Megan Gustafson	Iowa	C	Sr
2018 A'ja Wilson	S. Carolina	F	Sr
2017 Kelsey Plum	Washington	G	Sr
2016 Breanna Stewart	UConn	F	Sr
2015 Breanna Stewart	UConn	F	Jr
2014 Breanna Stewart	UConn	F	So
2013 Brittney Griner	Baylor	C	Sr
2012 Brittney Griner	Baylor	C	Jr
2011 Maya Moore	UConn	F	Sr
2010 Tina Charles	UConn	C	Sr
2009 Maya Moore	UConn	F	So
2008 Candace Parker	Tennessee	F	Sr
2007 Lindsey Harding	Duke	G	Sr
2006 Seimone Augustus	LSU	F	Sr
2005 Seimone Augustus	LSU	F	Jr
2004 Diana Taurasi	UConn	G	Sr
2003 Diana Taurasi	UConn	G	Jr
2002 Sue Bird	UConn	G	Sr
2001 Ruth Riley	Notre Dame	C	Sr
2000 Tamika Catchings	Tennessee	F	Jr
1999 Chamique Holdsclaw	Tennessee	F	Sr
1998 Chamique Holdsclaw	Tennessee	F	Jr
1997 Kate Starbird	Stanford	G	Sr
1996 Saudia Roundtree	Georgia	G	Sr
1995 Rebecca Lobo	UConn	C	Sr
1994 Lisa Leslie	USC	C	Sr
1993 Sheryl Swoopes	Texas Tech	F	Sr
1992 Dawn Staley	Virginia	G	Sr
1991 Dawn Staley	Virginia	G	Jr
1990 Jennifer Azzi	Stanford	G	Sr
1989 Clarissa Davis	Texas	F	Sr
1988 Sue Wicks	Rutgers	F	Sr
1987 Clarissa Davis	Texas	F	So
1986 Cheryl Miller	USC	F	Sr
1985 Cheryl Miller	USC	F	Jr
1984 Cheryl Miller	USC	F	So
1983 Anne Donovan	Old Domin.	C	Sr

COACHES OF THE YEAR

2022	Dawn Staley	South Carolina
2021	Tara VanDerveer	Stanford
2020	Dawn Staley	South Carolina
2019	Lisa Bluder	Iowa
2018	Vic Schaefer	Mississippi St.
2017	Geno Auriemma	UConn
2016	Geno Auriemma	UConn
2015	Courtney Banghart	Princeton
2014	Muffet McGraw	Notre Dame
2013	Muffet McGraw	Notre Dame
2012	Kim Mulkey	Baylor
2011	Tara VanDerveer	Stanford
2010	Connie Yori	Nebraska
2009	Geno Auriemma	UConn
2008	Geno Auriemma	UConn
2007	Gail Goestenkors	Duke
2006	Sylvia Hatchell	North Carolina
2005	Pokey Chatman	LSU
2004	Pat Summitt	Tennessee
2003	Gail Goestenkors	Duke
2002	Geno Auriemma	UConn
2001	Muffet McGraw	Notre Dame
2000	Geno Auriemma	UConn
1999	Carolyn Peck	Purdue
1998	Pat Summitt	Tennessee
1997	Geno Auriemma	UConn
1996	Andy Landers	Georgia
1995	Geno Auriemma	UConn
1994	Pat Summitt	Tennessee
1993	C. Vivian Stringer	Iowa
1992	Chris Weller	Maryland
1991	Debbie Ryan	Virginia
1990	Tara VanDerveer	Stanford
1989	Pat Summitt	Tennessee
1988	Leon Barmore	Louisiana Tech
1987	Pat Summitt	Tennessee

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT.
Kansas City	7	4	.636
Los Angeles	7	4	.636
Boston	8	5	.615
Houston	6	4	.600
Baltimore	6	5	.545
Cleveland	6	5	.545
Texas	6	5	.545
Chicago	7	6	.538
Detroit	5	5	.500
Seattle	5	5	.500
Toronto	5	5	.500
New York	5	6	.455
Minnesota	5	8	.385
Tampa Bay	3	7	.300
Oakland	3	8	.273
NATIONAL LEAGUE	**W**	**L**	**PCT.**
Atlanta	6	3	.667
Chicago	8	4	.667
New York	6	3	.667
Miami	6	4	.600
St. Louis	6	4	.600
Cincinnati	6	5	.545
Philadelphia	6	5	.545
San Diego	5	5	.500
Pittsburgh	5	5	.500
Arizona	6	7	.462
Colorado	5	7	.417
San Francisco	5	7	.417
Milwaukee	4	6	.400
Los Angeles	3	5	.375
Washington	1	10	.091

standings do not reflect ties

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Baltimore 7, Tampa Bay 6
Boston 10, Atlanta 7
Minnesota 9, Pittsburgh 4
Detroit 7, Philadelphia 1
St. Louis 29, Washington 8
Chi. Cubs 8, Seattle 5
Chi. White Sox 7, Texas 0
San Francisco 9, Kansas City 5
San Diego 4, Milwaukee 2
Oakland 5, Cincinnati 4
Arizona 9, Colorado 2
Houston vs. N.Y. Mets, late
Toronto vs. N.Y. Yankees, late
L.A. Dodgers vs. Cleveland, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Tampa Bay vs. Atlanta, 1:05p.m.
Minnesota vs. Boston, 1:05p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Philadelphia, 1:05p.m.
Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh, 1:05p.m.
Detroit vs. Toronto, 1:07p.m.
Kansas City vs. Oakland, 4:05p.m.
Colorado vs. San Francisco, 4:05p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs. Texas, 4:05p.m.
San Diego vs. Arizona, 4:10p.m.
L.A. Angels vs. Milwaukee, 4:10p.m.
Washington vs. N.Y. Mets, 6:10p.m.
St. Louis vs. Miami, 6:40p.m.
Chi. White Sox vs. Cincinnati, 9:05p.m.
Cleveland vs. Seattle, 9:40p.m.

GOLF

SCORING AVERAGE LEADERS

PGA TOUR	RD	AVG	STRK
Cameron Smith	26	69.274	1,762
Justin Thomas	35	69.617	2,176
Russell Henley	47	69.651	3,023
Matt Fitzpatrick	29	69.728	1,806
Shane Lowry	23	69.844	1,384
Scottie Scheffler	49	69.870	2,899
Billy Horschel	34	69.895	2,072
Daniel Berger	21	69.942	1,243
Patrick Cantlay	25	69.949	1,504
Joaquin Niemann	37	69.950	2,347

LPGA TOUR	STRK	RD	AVG
Jin Young Ko	545	8	68.125
Brooke M. Henderson	1301	19	68.474
Minjee Lee	823	12	68.583
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	1166	17	68.588
Danielle Kang	1376	20	68.800
Atthaya Thitikul	1309	19	68.895
Celine Boutier	1310	19	68.947
Amy Yang	1311	19	69.000

Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians watches play against the Panthers during the second half of a game Jan. 9 in Tampa, Florida. Arians has decided to retire as coach of the Buccaneers and move into a front-office role with the team, it was announced Wednesday night. **AP FILE**

NFL

Arians retires, Buccaneers name Bowles new coach

Offensive guru, 70, to take front-office role, DC gets promoted

By Fred Goodall | Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Bruce Arians has decided to retire as coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and move into a front-office role with the team, a stunning move announced Wednesday night.

Arians, who will turn 70 this coming season, coached the Bucs to the Super Bowl title in the 2020 season — Tom Brady's first with Tampa Bay. The Bucs were 31-18 in Arians' three seasons there and he was 80-48-1 in eight years as a head coach overall when adding in his five seasons with the Arizona Cardinals.

Defensive coordinator Todd Bowles will replace Arians as coach.

NBC Sports and the Los Angeles Times first reported Arians' decision and that Bowles would be promoted.

"I have spent most of the last 50 years of my life on the sidelines as a football coach in one form or another," Arians said in a statement released by the team. "Today, I have made the decision to move from the sidelines into another role with the Buccaneers front office, assisting (general manager) Jason Licht and his staff.

"I love football. I love the relationships, the strategy, the competition — everything. It has been one hell of a ride, but I know this is the right time for me to make this transition."

Bowles becomes the sixth minority head coach currently in the NFL, joining Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin, Washington's Ron Rivera, the New York Jets' Robert Saleh, Houston's Lovie Smith and Miami's Mike McDaniel. He also is the fourth Black coach in Bucs' history, joining Tony Dungy, Raheem Morris and Smith.

It is the second major retirement announcement for the Bucs this offseason, following Brady's announcement in February that he was ending his career. Brady, a seven-time Super Bowl champion quarterback, returned 40 days later, saying he would return for a 23rd season and noting he had "unfinished business."

Brady, in an Instagram post Wednesday night, said Arians was a major part of his decision to play for Tampa Bay and that he'll be "forever grateful."

"You are an incredible man and coach, and it was a privilege to play for you," Brady wrote. "You are a true NFL legend and pioneer for all the work you have done to make the league more diverse and inclusive. Smart, tough, and loyal are a few of the words to describe your style. I will always remember the conversations we had when you recruited me two years ago and all of the things we discussed came true."

There was no public indication at the NFL's annual meetings on the Atlantic side of the state in Palm Beach, Florida that such a move was coming. Arians was there, briefly, and did an interview with NFL Network about what the team would have done to replace Brady if the quarterback hadn't changed his mind. Licht addressed reporters for a short time during the meetings, as did team co-owner Joel Glazer.

Arians did not do a group interview there, with the team saying he was leaving for personal reasons. He was also one of the four coaches who opted to not be part of the annual group photo of all NFL head coaches at the meetings.

Bowles was an interim head coach in Miami for three games in 2011, and went 24-40 in four seasons with the New York Jets from 2015 through 2018.

"I am appreciative of the Glazer family and Jason Licht for having faith in me to take on this role, and to Coach Arians for his support and guidance over the past four decades," Bowles said. "Tampa has become home for my family, and we are excited to remain part of this community for years to come. ... I am eager to get started with our players, coaching staff, and front office in preparation for the 2022 season."

BRIEFS

Seton Hall hires Saint Peter's Holloway

News services

Shaheeen Holloway is leaving Cinderella Saint Peter's for Seton Hall just days after helping the little Jesuit school make history by becoming the first No. 15 seed to reach the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament.

Seton Hall athletic director Bryan Felt announced the hiring of the 45-year-old Wednesday evening. It really wasn't a surprise.

Holloway played for the Pirates of the Big East Conference and his move to replace Kevin Willard has been a hot topic since the opening weekend of the NCAA Tournament. Willard left last week for the head job at Maryland.

■ Baylor standout freshman Kendall Brown and point guard James Akinjo are entering their names into the NBA draft. ... Three Georgetown players entered the NCAA transfer portal, the latest in a series of members of coach Patrick Ewing's team to leave the Hoyas. The school announced the departures of C Timothy Ighoefe, G Tyler Beard and F Jalin Billingsley.

Baseball: RHP Hunter Greene has cracked the Reds' season-opening rotation. The second overall pick from the 2017 draft reached 104 mph with his fastball in Triple-A last season and could be one of the most exciting rookies in baseball this year. He will pitch behind opening-day starter Tyler Mahle during a weekend series against the Braves. ... LHP Max Fried, who capped his 2021 season as the starter in the Braves' decisive Game 6 World Series win over the Astros, has been named the team's opening day starter April 7 against the Reds. ... The Cardinals defeated the Nationals 29-8 in a spring training game, scoring 10 runs each off pitchers Anibal Sanchez and Cade Cavalli. ... Former major leaguers Jonny Gomes, Adrian Gonzalez, Geovany Soto and Nick Swisher are going on a home run derby tour to London; Seoul, South Korea; and Mexico City. ... Retired RHP Jake Peavy and OF Hunter Pence have joined MLB Network as analysts along with Alex Avila and Cameron Maybin.

NBA: Cavaliers star rookie F Evan Mobley will miss at least the next three games with a sprained left ankle, an injury that could keep them from clinching one of the top six playoff spots. ... Celtics C Robert Williams III is expected to miss four to six weeks after undergoing surgery to repair torn cartilage in his left knee. Williams, a staunch defender, was averaging 10 points, 9.6 rebounds and just over two blocks this season.

NFL: The Jaguars signed DE Arden Key to a one-year contract, giving them an athletic pass rusher to play opposite Josh Allen and potentially alongside rookie Aiden Hutchinson. Key recorded 6 ½ sacks for the 49ers while playing with Pro Bowler Nick Bosa.

NHL: The Wild signed D Alex Goligoski to a two-year, $4 million contract extension. Goligoski, 36, has two goals, 26 assists and a team-leading plus-34 rating in 58 games. His new deal runs through the 2023-24 season.

Soccer: Women's soccer celebrated a milestone when a world-record crowd of 91,553 people watched host Barcelona defeat Real Madrid 5-2 in the Champions League at the Camp Nou Stadium. The previous record for any women's game was 90,185 for the 1999 World Cup final between the United States and China at the Rose Bowl.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: NCAA Tournament national semifinal at Minneapolis, vs. Stanford, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

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COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

A classic rivalry

While UConn's history with Tennessee is well-documented, matchups with Stanford have provided plenty of memories

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

UConn and Stanford are familiar opponents who will meet in a familiar place Friday: In the NCAA Final Four.

The Huskies and Cardinal have met 18 times, five in the national semifinals or championship game.

The Huskies memorable run to their first championship, the undefeated 1994-95 team, had to get through Stanford in order to reach the championship. They've also had high-profile meetings in the regular season with UConn's then-record 90-game winning streak coming to an end at Stanford in 2010 being a great example.

Both teams have had dozens of great players come and go, but the constants have been coaches Geno Auriemma and Tara Vanderveer. Both teams have won more than 75% of games played in their histories, and they have combined for 13 national championships, 11 by UConn, and 34 Final Four appearances, 20 by UConn.

Stanford is the defending champion, beating Arizona, the team that eliminated UConn in the semifinal.

The Huskies lead the rivalry 11-7. Here's a look at some of the most meaningful UConn-Stanford matchups:

April 1, 1995

UConn was 33-0 and had become a sudden national sensation. But there were many doubters. Stanford had beaten UConn three times between 1988 and '93. As it turned out, the threesome of Rebecca Lobo, Kara Wolters and Jamelle Elliott combined to hit 22 of 35 from the floor, and the Huskies jumped out to a big early lead. They won 87-60 and went on to beat Tennessee to complete the quest. That's still UConn's largest margin of victory against Stanford. The teams meet again in the same building, the Target Center, on Friday.

March 27, 2005

UConn was riding three championships in a row into Kansas City for the Final Four. But top-ranked Stanford had a loaded team and in the semifinals, freshman Candace Wiggins scored 21 points to lead the Cardinal to a 75-59 victory. Stanford pulled away in the second half, shooting 57.7%. Geno Auriemma: "I'm not sure we were good enough to beat them unless we played the perfect game."

April 6, 2008

In another semifinal matchup, this time in Tampa, Fla., UConn was considered the favorite. But Wiggins, now a senior, struck again for 25 points and 13 rebounds and Stanford prevailed, 82-73. UConn (36-2) had beaten Stanford by 12 during the regular season. "We failed the midterm, but we're going to take this final," Wiggins told her team before the game. "The one thing I will say is it's unfortunate that the season comes down to one weekend," Auriemma said. "And if it doesn't go your way, the other five months seem to have no meaning. And that's why this, or the [championship] game, are such difficult games to lose."

April 5, 2009

In a No. 1 (UConn) vs. No. 2 (Stanford) game that many thought should have been the championship matchup, Renee Montgomery scored 26 points and Maya Moore 24 as the Huskies won this semifinal, 83-64. UConn went on to beat Louisville for the championship.

Dec. 30, 2010

UConn had broken the record set by UCLA men with its 89th win in a row, and were at 90 when they got to Stanford for this early season test, a game in which Auriemma said, "reality set in." Jeanette Pohlen scored 31 points to lead the Cardinal to the win. Incidentally, UConn's streak began after the loss to Stanford in the 2008 Final Four. "It's not a national championship, but this was a great night for us," Vanderveer said.

April 6, 2010

This seems to be the date. This time, in San Antonio, UConn finished off a 39-0 season with a victory in the championship game. This game had one of UConn's patented knockouts, a 17-2 run to start the second half. UConn didn't need an invitation. Tina Charles announced the Huskies next destination: "President Barack Obama, we're baaaaack," Charles said.

April 6, 2014

UConn and Notre Dame were both undefeated, and their match in the championship game was widely anticipated. First the Huskies, again, had to get by Stanford. "If we're going to be someone's hors d'oeuvres, we're not going to get swallowed easily," VanDerveer said. Sophomore Breanna Stewart scored 18 points and did the defensive job on Stanford's Chiney Ogwumike as UConn won yet another semifinal matchup, 75-64, in Nashville. The UConn men's and women's teams went on to win championships in 2014. The women won for the ninth time, a record they would like to increase this weekend.

Nov. 17, 2014

After UConn, ranked No. 1, had beaten Stanford the previous spring, the teams met again in the second game of the 2014-15 season and staged an epic. Stanford won 88-86 in OT at Maples Pavilion, thanks to Amber Orrange's tying basket. She hit the go-ahead hoop late in overtime. "Games like this make you realize just how damn hard it is to go undefeated," Auriemma said. This ended a UConn winning streak at 47, but it went on to start another, 111 in a row, that lasted until the Final Four in 2017.

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Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer shakes hands with UConn's Geno Auriemma before their game in 2010. They meet for the 19th time, and the sixth time in a Final Four, on Friday in Minneapolis. **AP**

Gaffney

from Page 1

roster are Jordan Hawkins, Corey Floyd Jr. and Andrew Hurley. All have seen limited action at point guard.

The Huskies now have four open scholarship spots available for the 2022-23 season. In looking at players who have in recent days entered the portal, there are a number of possibilities who could be available to UConn. Those available include South Carolina guard Jermaine Couisnard and LSU's Xavier Pinson.

Couisnard, a 6-4 junior, averaged 12.5 points and 3.2 assists per game for the Gamecocks this past season. Pinson, 6-2, played four seasons at LSU and in his senior year averaged 9.8 points and 4.8 assists.

Gaffney, meanwhile, played in 87 games over three seasons with UConn, averaging 16.8 minutes, four points and 1.9 assists.

■ More Huskies coverage at **courant.com/sports**

UConn

from Page 1

which Rebecca Lobo was captured in so many photos, arms outstretched, happily zooming open-mouthed and wide-eyed around the court.

"Every memory I have of that game is burned into my mind," Auriemma said. "I can probably remember every single possession, every timeout. Halftime. What we did. Where we stayed. Everything. Everything was just so big. We were riding that undefeated season. We were getting unprecedented attention that had never been bestowed on a women's basketball program. We were dealing with a lot and the excitement was unbelievable. We were playing a storied program with a Hall of Fame coach, Pat Summit.

"All the elements were there, you remember that. You played Saturday and Sunday. We played Stanford in that semifinal game. Then we played Sunday at noon. The Target Center will always have a special place in our hearts in Connecticut."

Underdog Huskies

Despite UConn's undefeated record, many were still not ready to concede that the Huskies belonged there with Tennessee and Stanford.

Good Morning America host Robin Roberts, who worked for ESPN, wrote in The Courant in April 1995: "Stanford has a nice history against Connecticut with a 3-0 record, and some of its victories have been decisive. Last season, with Lobo and [Kara] Wolters playing, Stanford won, 94-75. In some ways, I'm more fearful for Connecticut playing Stanford than in the championship final.

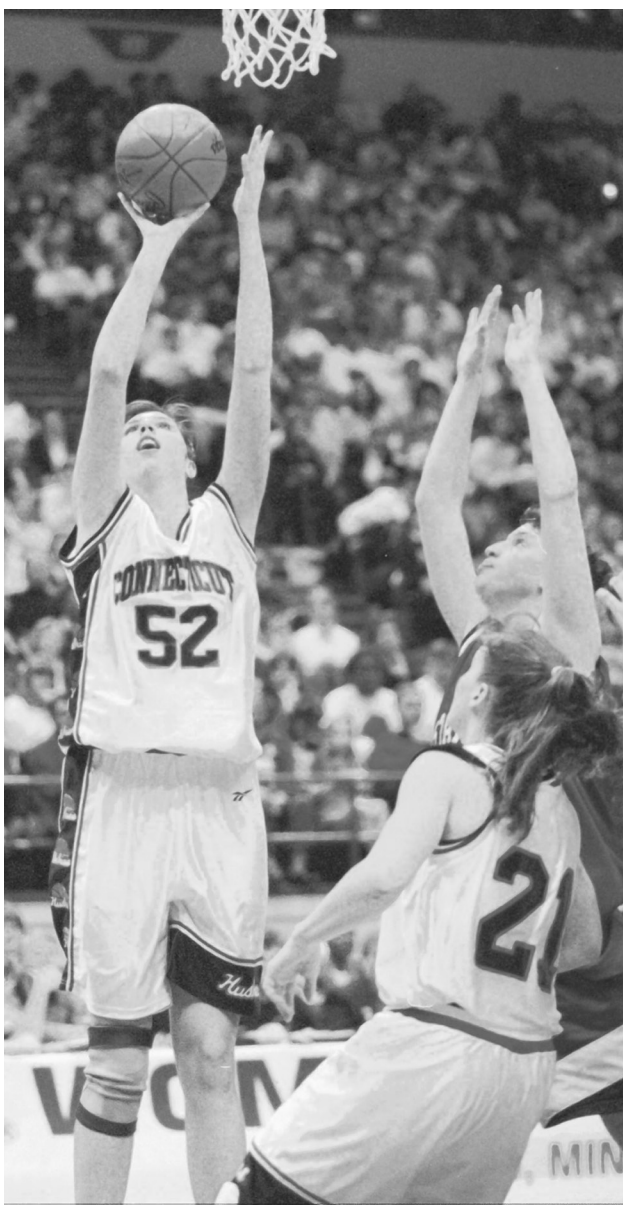
"Sorry, Geno and Kara and Rebecca and Jamelle [Elliott]. I've never wanted to be more wrong in my career, but as a journalist I have to be objective. On a neutral court, all things being equal, I think Tennessee will win."

And UConn was 0-3 against Stanford, a two-time national champion, going into that game April 1, 1995. Coach Tara VanDerveer said before the game that she thought that UConn lacked athleticism and proved it was 'vulnerable' after having to rally to defeat Virginia 67-63 in the East Regional final.

"We weren't the most athletic team," Berube said, laughing. "She was kind of spot on. But that doesn't always equal wins or being successful. It's the game, the matchups. Our team was very together and had great chemistry and had the right pieces to be successful."

"Everyone questioned us," said Meghan (Pattyson) Culmo, who was an assistant coach for the team then. "They questioned the Big East, they questioned the caliber of play."

The Huskies destroyed Stanford 87-60. Wolters had 31 points, nine rebounds and two blocks. Elliott, now a UConn assistant, had 21 points and six rebounds. Lobo had 17 points, nine rebounds, three assists, three steals and two blocks.



UConn's Kara Wolters goes up for a shot as teammate Jennifer Rizzotti (21) and Stanford's Anita Kaplan, rear, watch in the second half of their national semifinal game on April 1, 1995, in Minneapolis. Wolters scored 31 points and had nine rebounds to lead UConn to an 87-60 victory over Stanford. **AP FILE**

Quick turnaround

That was Saturday. Then they had to turn around and play Tennessee Sunday. In those days, the Final Four was played on back to back days, unthinkable now.

"I wish we didn't have to play [Sunday]," Auriemma said in 1995 after the Stanford game. "I wish we could just get on a flight back to Connecticut and enjoy this one for a long time. 'But if you're going to try to get into the history books like we are, I guess you've got to get up and play."

Tennessee's Latina Davis was fired up after her team went to Storrs and lost earlier that year on Martin Luther King Day, a victory that which elevated UConn past Tennessee and into No. 1 in the AP poll.

"They took something we had and made it their own," Davis said then. "This time, we will win."

Many agreed with her, including ESPN analyst Mimi Griffin.

"I don't think there is any question [third-ranked] Tennessee is the better team right now," she said then.

That Sunday, April 2, as a sellout crowd of 18,000 watched at the Target Center, Lobo got in foul trouble and didn't play much of the first half. UConn trailed 38-32 at halftime. But the Huskies came on strong in the second half and the rest was history.

"I'm sure everybody had Tennessee beating us, Stanford beating us — Stanford was a really, really good team," Berube said. "I remember thinking when we beat them by 30, it was like, 'What? What's happening?' I was not expecting that. I remember Kara having a really good game.

"Those were two storied programs and coaches that had won national championships. For us to go in there and shock them, I'm sure nobody was expecting that."

Berube, whose current team advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament, losing to Indiana 56-55, hasn't been back to Minneapolis since. She'll be back for the WBCA coaches convention and to watch her alma mater in yet another Final Four.

"I think it will be cool," she said. "I'm looking forward to getting to the city and the Target Center. It holds a sort of special place in my life and our UConn family.

"I texted their staff after their big win against NC State. That was such an amazing game, let's do what we did 27 years ago in the same place. I'm looking forward to watching them."

Culmo cleaned out her basement during the pandemic and unearthed a championship T-shirt from that year. She has it with her in Minneapolis.

"Maybe I'll wear it, it's kind of a cool thing to have," she said. "Geno will get a kick out of it."

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Turning over

Since losing in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, the UConn men's basketball will look quite different in 2022-23. Departures will mean the Huskies must replace four of their top five scorers:

R.J. Cole: Turning pro
Stats: 33 starts, 15.8 points per game
Tyrese Martin: Turning pro
Stats: 29 starts, 13.6 ppg, 7.5 rebounds per game
Isaiah Whaley: Exhausted eligibility
Stats: 31 starts, 7.7 ppg
Tyler Polley: Exhausted eligibility
Stats: 33 games, 7.6 ppg
Jalen Gaffney: Transfer portal
Stats: 33 games, 4.0 ppg
Rahsool Diggins: Portal
Stats: 9 games, 5.1 minutes per game

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

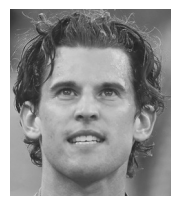
Safety Jenkins has had last dance

Malcolm Jenkins is retiring after a 13-year NFL career in which he established himself as one of the league's best all-around safeties, most durable players and leading voices for social justice. Jenkins helped both the Saints and Eagles win their only Super Bowl and made a major impact off the field as an activist, entrepreneur and philanthropist. "I've been playing football since I was 7 years old, and I've accomplished so much in that time," Jenkins told AP. "I wanted to change the game or at least have an impact on the game, not only on the field but off the field." Jenkins, 34, was selected by the Saints as a cornerback in the first round of the 2009 draft out of Ohio State. He switched to safety the following season and thrived. He left New Orleans for Philadelphia in 2014 and started every game during six seasons with the Eagles. He made three Pro Bowls and was an instrumental leader on the 2017 Eagles team that won the Super Bowl despite losing starting quarterback Carson Wentz and several key starters. "I think competition is probably the biggest thing that I'll miss about the game," Jenkins said.

Pegula breezes to Miami Open semis

Forget three-setters. These days, Jessica Pegula doesn't even need second sets. The No. 16 seed has made the semifinals at the Miami Open, benefiting from a second consecutive abrupt ending. She won her quarterfinal against fifth-seeded Paula Badosa on Wednesday, after the Spaniard retired five games into the first set. Pegula has played four matches so far in this tournament, needing only 5 ½ sets to record those victories. She had a first-round bye, won her next two matches in straight sets and her fourth-round match ended when Anhelina Kalinina retired after Pegula won the first set 6-0. Then came Wednesday, when Badosa bowed out down 4-1. "Of course, it's not nice to win that way," Pegula said. "It's the first time I've ever even hit with her at all and I was really looking forward to playing because she's been having an amazing year." Badosa — who was No. 71 in the world rankings at this time last year — will climb to a career-best No. 3 when the computer numbers are updated on Monday. Badosa said she woke up Monday not feeling well and wasn't even sure she could play that day in a fourth-rounder against Linda Fruhvirtova.

Thiem gets COVID-19 after return



Dominic Thiem, the 2020 U.S. Open champion, said he tested positive for COVID-19 after his first match in more than nine months. Thiem lost 6-3, 6-4 to Pedro Cachin at the Andalucia Open on the lower-level Challenger Tour on Tuesday. The 28-year-old Austrian had been sidelined by wrist and hand injuries and last competed in June. Thiem posted on social media that he "started feeling unwell and didn't have a good night" after dinner Tuesday and developed what he called mild symptoms. He said he tested positive Wednesday. Thiem was the runner-up at the French Open in 2018 and 2019, losing to Rafael Nadal each time, and at the Australian Open in 2020, losing to Novak Djokovic. Later that year, Thiem collected his first Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows, coming back from two sets down to beat Alexander Zverev in a fifth-set tiebreaker in the final. Once ranked as high as No. 3, Thiem is currently No. 50. Another past major champion, Stan Wawrinka, also made his return from a foot injury at the Andalucia Open, losing his first match 6-2, 6-4 to Elias Ymer. *AP*

LeLe Grisset, left, and Aliyah Boston and South Carolina earned their trip to the Final Four in a women's tournament filled with more parity than ever. **SARAH STIER/GETTY**

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT FINAL FOUR

Tougher fight for finalists

Not too long ago, picking national champ would have been fairly simple

By Pat Eaton-Robb
Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — There was a time, not that many years ago, when predicting the women's NCAA Tournament champion seemed relatively easy.

UConn or Tennessee or Baylor or maybe Stanford, depending on the year.

But this year is not a year like that.

South Carolina (33-2) goes to the Final Four in Minneapolis as the favorite.

But defending champion Stanford (32-3), Louisville (29-4) and UConn (29-5) have all been there before — many times, actually — though each had to fight this season to get back to the top as parity in women's basketball continues to surge.

"It doesn't mean that a team can't be dominant, doesn't mean that you can't have several teams that are dominant," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "It just means that there are stories that come along throughout our season that beg to be heard about."

No. 2 seeds Baylor and Iowa were eliminated before the Sweet 16. Florida Gulf Coast, a 12 seed, upset fifth-seeded Virginia Tech in the opening round. Creighton, a 10 seed, made it to a regional final.

Since Breanna Stewart led UConn to its fourth straight national title as a senior in 2016, there have been four different women's champions and there was even discussion this season whether the Huskies' dynasty has taken a step back while others have caught up. The last two title games have each been decided by a single point.

"Our game is growing," said Louisville coach Jeff Walz, whose team is in its fourth Final Four. "So it's just not one school where everybody goes, one program where everybody goes. Now players are branching out. Other universities like ourselves are investing in women's basketball. I think as that continues throughout the country, you're going to see more and more programs evolve and continue to get better. That's really what it's all about."

The early rounds again featured their share of blowouts. There have been 12 games decided by 30 or more points in this tournament, compared to four on the men's side.

But, there were plenty of upsets and close games, including Monday's classic that saw No. 2 seed UConn outlast top-seeded North Carolina State in double overtime. It was the first time a game that late in the tournament has had multiple periods of extra time.

"It was just an amazing basketball game and it was a great showcase for our sport," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said.

The men's tournament has been something of a thriller, too. Saint Peter's captured everyone's attention as the first 15 seed to reach the Elite Eight, sparking a discussion of growing parity even as four juggernaut programs reached the semifinals.

"The way this tournament has gone, too, it's amazing that that's happened," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Tuesday, noting the veteran players stacked on some of the tourney teams. "It's the oldest that that college basketball has ever been. And so as a result of that, it's going to be tougher to win."

On the women's side, there have been 23 games in the tournament so far decided by single digits, 13 by five points or fewer. Six of those games involved the Final Four teams.

"I know we've got three of the four one seeds are playing in the Final Four, but up to that point, how many great games have we had?" Walz said. "How many upsets have we had? That's what's making our game that much better and that much more exciting."

Fans have noticed. Twitter and other social media sites exploded during the UConn-N.C. State game Monday, with numerous pro athletes among those sending out messages about the game and the quality of women's basketball in general.

"I think people have been really starved for great women's basketball," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "I think that the games have been so exciting. The coverage, the crowds have been great. (The Final Four) is going to be really a great opportunity, a great platform for the women on our team and the game itself to be showcased."

Associated Press writers Eric Olson and Aaron Beard contributed to this report.

NCAA TOURNAMENT FINAL FOUR

Perennial blue blood programs highlight surviving teams

By Noah Trister | Associated Press

This year's Final Four is either unprecedented or pretty close.

In one corner, North Carolina is making a record 21st appearance in the Final Four. Its semifinal opponent, Duke, is waiting with the sport's winningest coach. Mike Krzyzewski surpassed 1,200 victories during this postseason run.

Kansas arrives having recently taken over the Division I lead in all-time wins. Villanova doesn't have quite the storied history of the other three schools, but the Wildcats are trying for their third national title in seven years. Only UCLA under John Wooden and Kentucky under Adolph Rupp have won three in that short a span.

So the quartet of programs in this year's Final Four is truly special. Only a few others can really compare:

1968 (Houston, North Carolina, Ohio State, UCLA)

Two of these programs aren't considered blue bloods now. In fact, Houston was a stretch even then — but the Elvin Hayes-led Cougars were making their second straight Final Four appearance, and their semifinal matchup with UCLA was a rematch of Houston's famous win over the Bruins earlier that year at the Astrodome. The teams also had met in the previous year's Final Four, with UCLA winning.

The Bruins beat the Cougars in this Final Four as well, then defeated Dean Smith and North Carolina in the title game. Ohio State, meanwhile, was making its eighth Final Four appearance in the first 30 years of the tournament.

1991 (Duke, Kansas, North Carolina, UNLV)

Duke, Kansas and North Carolina need no introduction as traditional powers — and UNLV was the sport's dominant team at this point, with a national championship in 1990 and an undefeated record coming into the '91 Final Four.

It was actually Duke — making its fifth Final Four appearance in six years — that was still chasing its first title and trying to shed a label of a team that hadn't won the big one. The Blue Devils did it, knocking off UNLV and then Kansas.

1993 (Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Michigan)

Talk about blue bloods — these schools all wear varying shades of the color. This was the 11th Final Four appearance for North Carolina and the 10th each for Kansas and Kentucky.

But it was Michigan — appearing in its sixth Final Four — that had the most recent title of this bunch, having won it all in 1989. A win over Kentucky in '93 gave the Fab Five its second straight appearance in the title game. The Wolverines then lost a heartbreaker to North Carolina.

2008 (Kansas, Memphis, North Carolina, UCLA)

This was the only men's Final Four to date featuring four No. 1 seeds, and Kansas, North Carolina and UCLA are unquestioned basketball royalty. Memphis isn't at that level, but this John Calipari-coached group — which included future No. 1 draft pick Derrick Rose — had lost only one game all season before falling in the title game to Kansas in overtime.

2012 (Kansas, Kentucky, Louisville, Ohio State)

This Final Four had some similarities to this year's, with in-state rivals Kentucky and Louisville meeting in a titanic semifinal matchup. Louisville was making its ninth Final Four appearance — and that was the fewest of the bunch. Kentucky ultimately won the championship with a victory over Kansas.

Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, no stranger to the Final Four, will coach there for the last time in his career. **GERRY BROOME/AP**

WEATHER

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and drizzle developing, breezy and milder.	Chance for a few morning showers, becoming partly sunny, breezy and mild.	Mostly sunny and breezy.	Considerable cloudiness and seasonable.	Mostly sunny and seasonable.
HIGH 62° LOW 50°	HIGH 58° LOW 34°	HIGH 54° LOW 33°	HIGH 54° LOW 36°	HIGH 56° LOW 38°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
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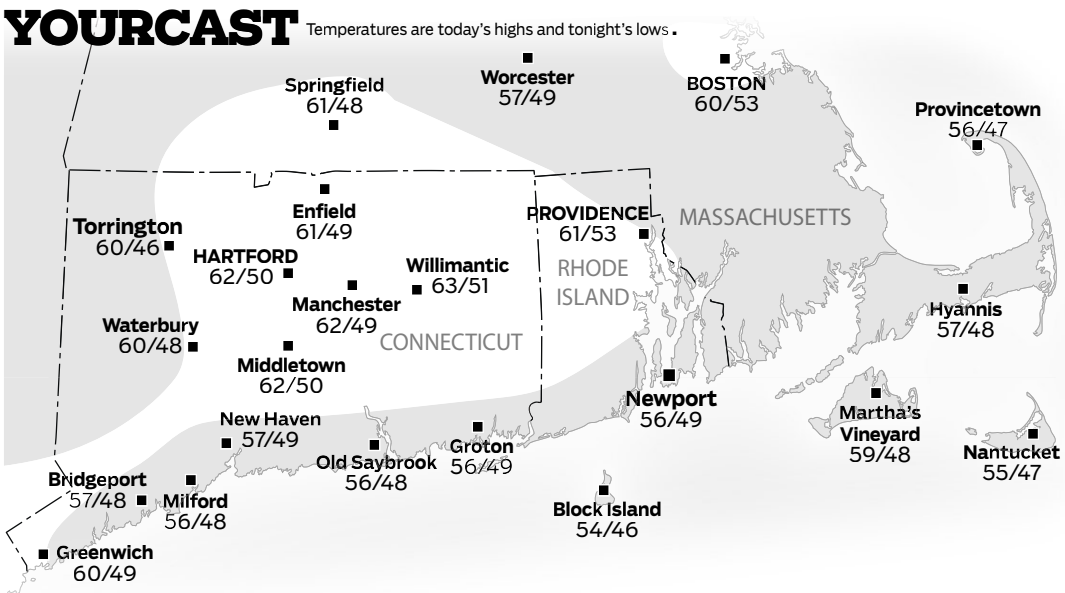
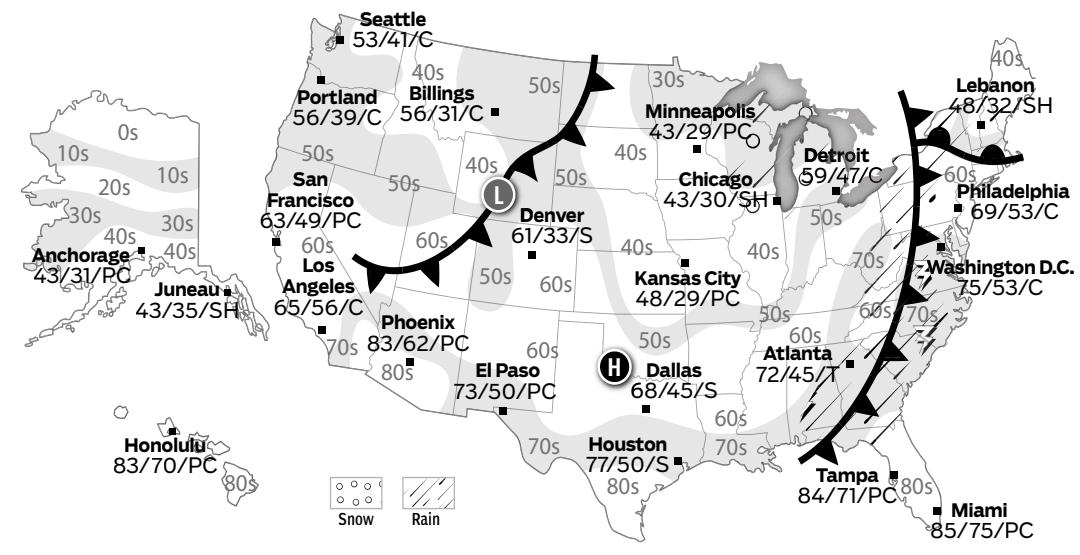
courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.





OUTLOOK

A frontal system moving through the Northeast will cause mostly cloudy skies on Thursday with high temperatures in the 50s and the 60s. Scattered showers and drizzle will be around, especially during the afternoon. More widespread showers are likely overnight, and a few thunderstorms are possible during the evening. It will become quite breezy with peak gusts in southeastern portions of the state reaching close to 45 mph. Any lingering showers Friday morning will be giving way to a partly sunny sky. It will be breezy and mild with high temperatures in the 50s.

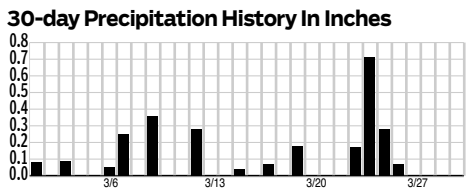
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.12
Month to date	2.63	3.69
Total this year	8.94	10.10
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.1
Total this year	31.5	50.5

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

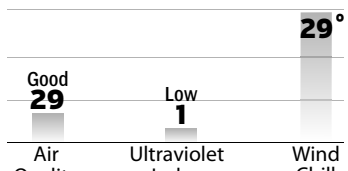
30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	9:31 a.m.	3:45 a.m.	43°
	9:51 p.m.	4:01 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	10:42 a.m.	4:38 a.m.	43°
	11:02 p.m.	4:54 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	1:02 a.m.	8:24 a.m.	
	1:25 p.m.	8:40 p.m.	
Madison	11:08 a.m.	4:55 a.m.	42°
	11:28 p.m.	5:14 p.m.	
New Haven	11:28 a.m.	5:19 a.m.	42°
	11:48 p.m.	5:38 p.m.	
Stamford	11:32 a.m.	5:33 a.m.	41°
	11:52 p.m.	5:52 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 7.74 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:36 a.m.	6:34 a.m.
Sunset	7:14 p.m.	7:15 p.m.
Moonrise	6:38 a.m.	7:00 a.m.
Moonset	6:45 p.m.	7:52 p.m.

Moon Phase

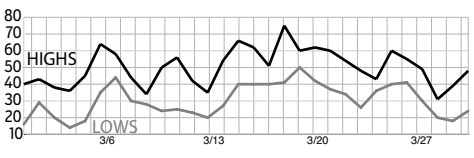
New	First	Full	Last
Apr 1	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
	MCloudy	MCloudy	MCloudy
Wind	S, 10-20	S, 10-20	S, 15-25
Seas	2-4 ft.	2-4 ft.	4-7 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	48 at 3:01 p.m	24 at 5:35 a.m
Normal for date	53	32
Record for date	87 in 1977	15 in 1970
A year ago	61	28
Range this year	76	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - March 30	4722	5159	4809

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.22 at 8 a.m.	30.03 at 7 p.m.
Dew point	12° at 6 a.m.	6° at 12 a.m.

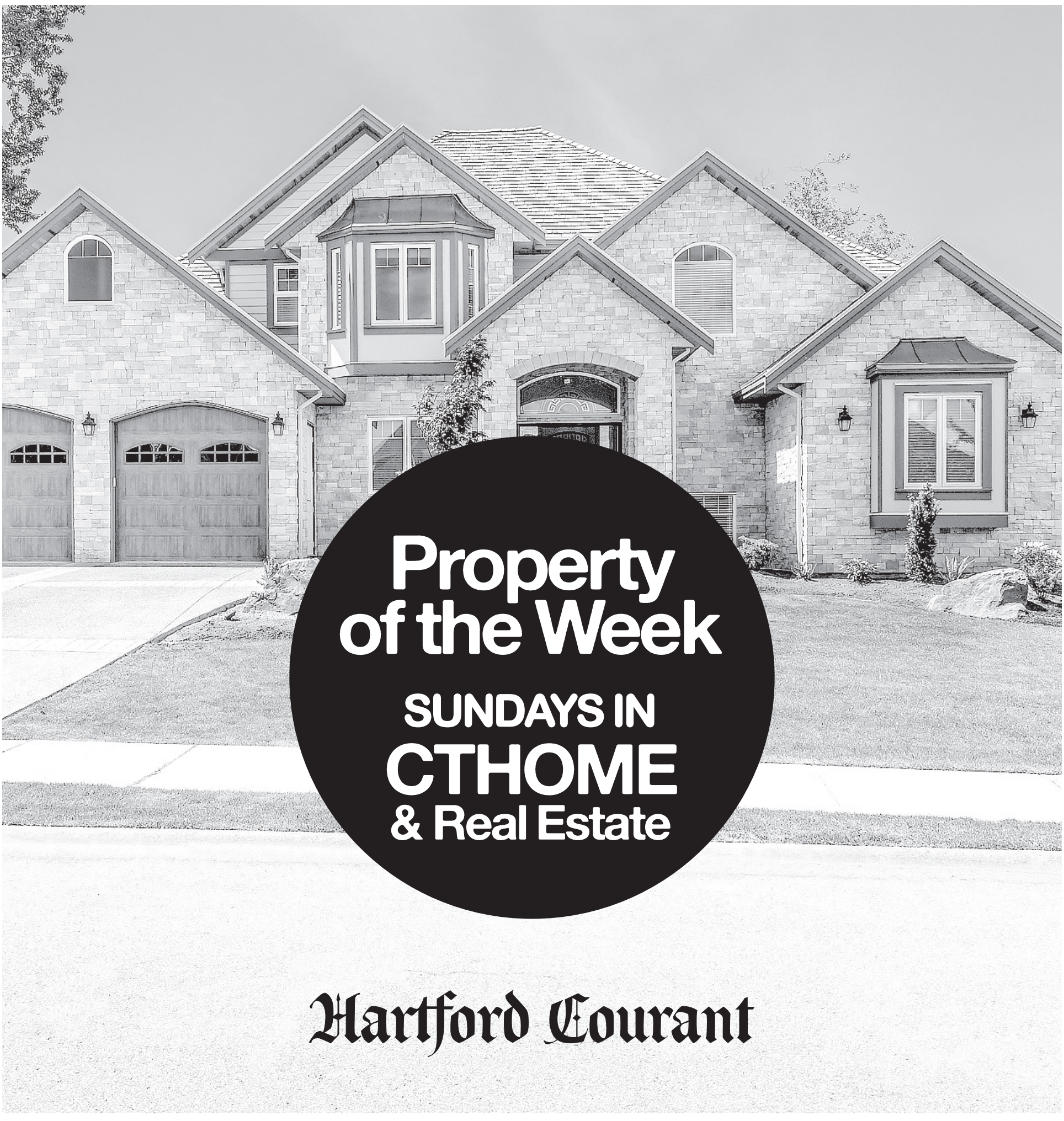
AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND			Baltimore	71	53	C	Nashville	60	36	C	San Juan	85	74	PC
Bangor	45	41	SH	Bismarck	52	30	PC	New Orleans	72	53	PC	Tucson	80	54	S
Burlington	57	40	C	Boise	55	32	S	New York	63	51	C	**WORLD**			
Caribou	40	35	I	Buffalo	64	34	SH	Okla. City	62	39	S	Amsterdam	41	34	R
Concord	51	46	SH	Charleston	78	55	SH	Omaha	48	26	PC	Athens	66	57	C
Montpelier	47	38	C	Cincinnati	54	34	C	Orlando	89	70	PC	Bangkok	100	81	T
Mt. Wash.	42	29	SH	Cleveland	57	33	C	Pittsburgh	70	37	SH	Barbados	84	72	PC
Portland	49	44	SH	Indianapolis	45	30	C	Raleigh	72	53	T	Beijing	63	36	S
Woods Hole	55	48	C	Jacksonville	83	56	C	St. Louis	47	33	C	Beirut	71	57	PC
NATION			Las Vegas	79	59	PC	Salt Lake City	56	36	SH	Berlin	46	32	C
Albany	56	44	SH	Miami Beach	81	76	PC	San Antonio	81	54	S	Bermuda	69	63	S
Albuquerque	63	44	PC	Milwaukee	41	28	SF	San Diego	65	59	C	Budapest	55	49	SH
Atlantic City	65	51	C									Buenos Aires	70	50	PC
												Cairo	85	62	S
												Cancun	87	75	SH
												Dubai	84	66	PC
												Dublin	46	37	SH
												Edinburgh	46	27	I
												Helsinki	37	18	PC
												Hong Kong	81	61	PC
												Istanbul	66	52	PC
												Jerusalem	72	50	PC
												Johannesburg	79	59	S
												Kingston	88	75	S
												Lisbon	61	48	SH
												London	45	34	PC
												Madrid	55	39	SH
												Mexico City	89	68	S
												Milan	59	39	R
												Montreal	50	39	SH
												Moscow	36	27	SN
												Nassau	82	66	S
												New Delhi	104	70	PC
												Paris	46	34	SH
												Prague	43	37	R
												Rio de Janeiro	90	70	T
												Rome	61	48	R
												Seoul	57	37	C
												Singapore	91	75	T
												Stockholm	41	21	PC
												Sydney	72	61	SH
												Tel Aviv	69	51	PC
												Tokyo	70	43	C
												Toronto	63	34	SH
												Vancouver	52	41	PC
												Warsaw	45	34	SH

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center



Hartford Courant
FLAVOR
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EASTER FEASTING

Here's what Connecticut restaurants are serving for holiday brunch and dinner

Dozens of Hartford-area restaurants are serving Easter brunch and dinner. **FILE PHOTOS**

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

With the relaxing of restrictions and the return of widespread indoor dining in Connecticut, Easter, which is April 17, is the perfect occasion to make a brunch or dinner reservation and enjoy the holiday away from home. Don't dawdle, though, because places are expected to book up fast. Here is a partial list of Connecticut restaurants serving on the holiday.

Delamar West Hartford, 1 Memorial Drive, serves an Easter brunch with the Easter bunny and an egg hunt on April 16, with seatings 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. $35; $25 children; year and younger free. eventbrite.com

Fleming's Steakhouse and Wine Bar, 44 S. Main St. in West Hartford, has a special three-course Easter menu available on April 16 and 17. Entrees are petite filet mignon and crab-stuffed shrimp scampi ($85) and petite filet mignon and lobster tail scampi ($95). Both meals come with salad and dessert. Salads are Fleming Salad (walnuts, tomatoes, dried cranberries, red onion, lemon balsamic) and Caesar salad. Desserts are chocolate butter cake, cheesecake ad key lime pie. flemingssteakhouse.com

Easter brunch buffets have a variety of breakfast favorites and dinner entrees.

Pond House Café, in Elizabeth Park on the Hartford-West Hartford line, has an Easter brunch on April 17 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. $54.87; $28.31 kids ages 5 to 12. Carving station offerings are brisket, turkey, lamb, tuna and porchetta. Other offerings include a cod cake omelet, eggs Benedict, eggs Florentine, a BLT omelet, pulled pork burrito, beet-cured salmon, shrimp mac and cheese, veggie jambalaya, Caesar salad, waffles, French toast, rugelach, scones and desserts. pondhousecafe.com

Market Grille, 110 Buckland Hills Drive in Manchester, has three-course prix fixe brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. ($29.95) and prix fixe dinner from 2 to 6:30 p.m. ($44.95) on Easter Sunday. Brunch entrees include ham, lobster avocado toast, eggs Benedict, scallops with salad, steak and eggs, crab cake Benedict, turkey burger. Dinner entrees include lamb, ham, prime rib, veal and shrimp saltimbocca, mahi mahi, pasta primavera, chicken picatta, scallops, filet mignon, salmon, lobster risotto, chicken and sausage rigatoni and a pork chop. A family-style meal for four also is available, in ham ($100) or lamb ($115). marketgrillct.com

The 1741 Pub & Grill at Lyman Orchards, 70 Lyman Road in Middlefield, will have a brunch buffet on April 17 with seatings at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. $32.95; $19.95 for 11 and younger. 1741pubandgrill.com

Millwrights, 77 West St. in Simsbury, has a three-course prix fixe meal on April 17 with seatings at 11 a.m. and 1, 3 and 5 p.m. $59; $29 younger than 12. Entrees include ham, crab and lobster cake Benedict, New York strip, fluke, lamb and ricotta gnocchi. Appetizers include salad, crispy maitake mushroom, crab salad toast, tuna tartare, foie gras mousse and short rib ragout. Desserts include coconut cake, oatmeal cookie, lemon curb and chocolate tart. millwrights-restaurant.com

Mill on the River, 989 Ellington Road in South Windsor, has a three-course prix fixe Easter dinner for $49.95, with soup or salad, entrée and dessert, on April 17 from 11:30 a.m. to

Turn to Easter, Page 3

Garlic shrimp can be full meal or an appetizer

By Kary Osmond | Tribune Content Agency

Here's the perfect recipe to serve at your next get-together. It's quick and delicious. The shrimp takes in all the wonderful flavors of the garlic and has a bit of zip with the added chili flakes. Not only is this a stellar appetizer, but it can be served with rice or salad as a meal.

Add chili flakes to the shrimp for a bit of pizzazz. **KARY OSMOND/TNS**

Garlic shrimp

Makes: 3 to 4 servings
1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon minced garlic (about 2 garlic cloves)
¼ teaspoon red chili flakes
1 pound shrimp, 16 to 20 count, peeled, deveined and tail left on
Salt
1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley
4 lemon wedges
1. Melt butter in a large nonstick frying pan over medium-high heat.
2. Add garlic and chili flakes; cook and stir for 1 minute.
3. Add shrimp and a pinch of salt; cook and stir until shrimp is pink and opaque, about 2 to 3 minutes.
4. Stir in parsley and plate with lemon wedges.

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Grapes worth knowing better

JASON RAISH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

A few weeks ago I opened a bottle that caught my attention. It was a soulful, graceful, strikingly pure red from the Aveyron region of southwestern France made by Nicolas Carmarans, a vigneron who makes natural wines from grapes that have long grown in the area.

This particular grape was fer servadou, a variety that to my knowledge I had never tried.

As delightful as I found the wine, my encounter with an intriguing new grape was even more joyful. It was a reminder that no matter how well-versed one might be in the intricacies of producers, regions and issues, wine always has more to reveal.

In that spirit, I'd like to suggest some grapes that are little-known in the United States but are worth getting to know better. You might not find all of these immediately, but keep your eyes open and try a few. You may be pleasantly surprised.

Wine, like food, is a hearty invitation to explore. It could simply be a new producer or an unknown region. Or it might be a completely unfamiliar grape, so all of these elements will be new.

Sometimes, what seems little-known or obscure becomes well loved. In 2010, I named a dozen grapes that I thought were worth seeking out.

Some of those varieties, like assyrtiko, frappato, mencía and trousseau, have been embraced, though not exactly at a chardonnay level.

It's important to note that while I have used terms like "obscure" and "little-known," I really mean in American and English-speaking wine cultures. All of these grapes are known and loved by those who farm the vines and make the wine. The rest of us are just catching up.

Here are the grapes, in alphabetical order.

Altesse: The Savoie region of France and its neighbors have quite a few little-known grapes that make beautiful wines. Mondeuse, persan and gringet are three. But in my exploration of Savoie whites last year, I fell in love with wines made with altesse. They are fragrant and floral, and rich yet refreshing because of the variety's bracing acidity. Wines labeled Roussette de Savoie will be 100% altesse. Those from other Savoie appellations like Apremont will be mostly jacquère with altesse sometimes blended in, a combination that can also be lovely.

Areni: Armenia and Georgia sit next to each other on a wide isthmus between the Caspian and Black seas. This area is the Caucasus, thought by many to be one of the points where wine originated. The two countries have dozens of grapes worth getting to know better, but I want to highlight areni from Armenia, a red grape that I have had only a few times, but each time it was startlingly good — lightly tannic yet fresh with stony flavors of red fruits and great finesse. I don't have a ready source for Armenian wines, I seem to find them by chance. But I'm looking forward to the next encounter.

Baga: This is the leading red grape of the Bairrada region of Portugal. It long had a reputation for making tough, tannic wines, and you can still find examples. These bottles may need years of aging for the tannins to relax. But many growers have recently found that by macerating the juice and the skins of the grapes for shorter periods, they can make fresher, more elegant wines that are vibrant and lively. Filipa Pato & William Wouters make excellent baga wines, as do Sidónio de Sousa, Casa de Saima and Dirk Niepoort.

Bobal: Here is a perfect example of a grape not getting a chance to show its stuff. For centuries it's been one of the leading grapes of southeastern Spain, though it went ordinarily into nondescript bulk wines. But recently, producers have worked to demonstrate the potential of bobal when farmed conscientiously in the right soils. I've found two in particular, Ponce and Mustiguillo, who have shown that bobal can be complex, nuanced, transparent and energetic in the right hands. I have also had an excellent natural bobal from Partida Creus in Catalonia.

Frontenac: Hybrid grapes rarely get any respect. Yet here's a grape that's a blend of Vitis vinifera, the species that accounts for almost all the best-loved European wine grapes, Vitis labrusca, a species that is native to America, and at least six additional species. Nobody has done more persuasive work on hybrids than Deirdre Heekin and Caleb Barber of La Garagista in Vermont, whose wines are luminous examples of their potential. One of my favorite Garagista wines, Loups-Garoux, is made entirely of Frontenac. I recently opened a 2017 that was fresh and alive, with wild, exotic fruit flavors and stony undertones.

Mandilaria: Greece offers many red grapes that are little known outside their growing regions. One exception is xinomavro, which is the Greek red most likely to make long-lived, complex wines. But others are well worth further attention, like limniona, mavrotragano and mavrodaphne. But I want to mention mandilaria here, which has often been dismissed, even in Greece, as all dark color and tannins with little character. But what if it were made differently? Last years I drank Great Mother red from Stilianou on Crete, which, like the Bairrada producers and baga, treats mandilaria with the lightest of hands. The result was a fascinating pale red, or dark rosé, that was earthy and lightly fruity.

Pecorino: This is one of Italy's great success stories. According to Ian D'Agata's excellent "Native Wine Grapes of Italy," this white grape, which had largely disappeared in the mid-20th century, was resurrected by a couple of producers who were looking for better alternatives among indigenous grapes to the more popular but mediocre varieties that had been planted for their productivity. Now grown primarily in the Marche and Abruzzo, pecorino is sharp, energetic and herbal, beautiful with dishes like linguine in clam sauce. Better producers include Antica Tenuta Pietramore, Tiberio and Cataldi Madonna from Abruzzo.

Trebbiano d'Abruzzese: If trebbiano d'Abruzzese sounds familiar, it's because "trebbiano" is a name applied to several different Italian white grapes. Most are common but mundane, but not trebbiano d'Abruzzese, a grape that is lively, richly textured, floral and saline. Producers in Abruzzo will tell you that trebbiano d'Abruzzese is in fact rare. Particularly confusing is that the wine, Trebbiano d'Abruzzo, can be made either with trebbiano Toscano, a lesser grape, or the genuine article, trebbiano d'Abruzzese. The key is to seek out reliable producers like Tiberio, Francesco Cirelli, Amorotti and, if you can afford them, Valentini and Emidio Pepe.

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

When you taste this pasta, you'll know spring has sprung

By Diane Rossen Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

You can add shredded chicken or tuna to this pasta dish to pack in the protein. **DIANE ROSSEN WORTHINGTON/TNS**

I get tired of making pasta with red sauce or creamy sauces. That's why I developed this quick recipe, with a plethora of fresh herbs and just-harvested spring vegetables, to mark the arrival of the new season. No tomatoes, no cream here. Simply lots of sweet, crunchy sugar snap peas, slender asparagus, bright green peas and penne pasta. The sauce is emerald green in color, herbaceous and slightly spicy with the crushed red pepper flakes. The lemon zest adds a citrus note.

I served this to my family the other night, and they all expressed immense satisfaction with the sweet, salty, spicy flavors of this keeper of a pasta dish. You'll notice that you reserve some pasta water to add to the pasta and vegetables to develop just the right sauce consistency.

This dish is adaptive to other ingredients. Shredded chicken or Italian tuna packed in oil add protein here. You can also include sundried tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, crumbled feta or goat cheese in place of the Parmesan cheese.

I had a good amount of food leftover and turned it into a cold pasta salad with extra lemon vinaigrette the next day. If you remove the cheese, you could also add cold shrimp or scallops to the pasta and serve it warm or cold. I enjoyed this pasta dish warm with a baby gem salad with sliced avocado and mango to begin and had a glass of chilled rose.

Penne pasta with spring green vegetables

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
For the sauce:
3 cloves garlic, ends removed
2 tablespoons tarragon leaves
½ cup basil leaves
1 cup fresh parsley leaves
¼ cup fresh dill sprigs
2 green onions, cleaned, (white and light green parts), sliced
1 tablespoon anchovy paste
1 tablespoon capers, drained
6 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Crushed red pepper flakes
½ cup olive oil
For the pasta and vegetables:
Water
Salt
20 thin asparagus, cleaned, trimmed, and cut into 2-inch pieces
½-pound sugar snap peas, cleaned
1 cup fresh or frozen and defrosted peas
1 pound penne
To serve:
½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, plus extra for serving
Zest of 1 lemon
Chopped fresh herbs, for garnish

1. In a food processor while motor is running mince the garlic. Add all other sauce ingredients except the oil. Add the oil slowly until it becomes a sauce. Set aside.

2. Heat a large pot of water with salt to a boil. Add the asparagus and sugar snap peas and cook for 2 minutes or until tender. Add the peas and cook another minute or until just done. Remove all vegetables with a slotted spoon to serving bowl.

3. Cook the pasta in the boiling water for about 9 minutes or until al dente. Reserve 1 cup water. Drain pasta and add to serving bowl. Add enough of the green sauce to the pasta and vegetables and mix to combine with a large spoon. Add a bit of pasta water to make a sauce-like consistency. Sprinkle over the Parmesan cheese and lemon zest and mix to combine.

4. Divide into shallow bowls, garnish with chopped herbs, if desired, and serve immediately. Serve more cheese on the side.

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Easter

from Page 1

5:30 p.m. Entrees include Black Angus beef, salmon, ham, shrimp-and-scallops, redfish, rigatoni with chicken, pork loin, leg of lamb, chicken cordon bleu, shrimp and ravioli. Appetizers cost extra, including shrimp cocktail, oysters, clams, mussels, calamari, gorgonzola brad, crab cake, eggplant timbale, buffalo mozzarella and a hummus plate. themillontheriver.com

Bear's Smokehouse BBQ, with locations in Hartford, Windsor, South Windsor and New Haven, has a takeout Easter feast for $175 that feeds six to eight people, including a whole smoked spiral ham, mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, roasted carrots, orzo salad, cornbread and barbecue sauce. Other items are offered a la carte, including the restaurant's usual offerings as well as a whole smoked leg of lamb, smoked salmon fillet, spinach and artichoke dip, hummus, deviled eggs and Lyman Orchards pies. bearsbbq.com

Saint Clements Castle, 1931 Portland Cobalt Road in Portland, will have an Easter brunch on April 17 with seatings at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with omelet, pasta and carving stations and sweets. $48, $20 ages 4 to 12, 3 and younger free. facebook.com/saintclementscastle

Grano Arso, 6 Main St. in Chester, offers an Easter brunch on April 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for $60. Selections include salad, stracciatella, calamari, tagliatelle with rabbit ragu, ravioli al uovo in confit, lamb breast, Arctic char and risotto verde. Also dessert. granoct.com

Water's Edge Resort & Spa, 1525 Boston Post Road in Westbrook, will serve Easter brunch on April 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. $59; $25 ages 6 to 10 years; 5 and younger free. The Easter Bunny will be there from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cheeses, fruits, fresh breads, salads, pastas, roasts, omelets, shrimp cocktail, waffles, breakfast buffet, entrée buffet, desserts. watersedgeresortandspa.com

Georgina's, 275 Boston Turnpike in Bolton, has a brunch buffet on April 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. $39; $19 ages 12 and younger. Fruit, fresh breads, salads, omelets, seafood newburg, eggplant Florentine, rigatoni alla vodka, baked him, sirloin, lemon and rosemary chicken and breakfast favorites and desserts. facebook.com/georginasrestaurantbanquets

A Villa Louisa, 60 Villa Louisa Road in Bolton, has an Easter brunch on April 17 with seatings at 10:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 1 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. $38.95; $16.95 10 and younger, 3 and younger free. Breakfast favorites, prime rib, lamb, chicken thighs, eggplant Parmesan, tortellini, salmon, seafood fra diavolo, haricot vert and desserts. Prepayment required on reservation. avillalouisa.com

The Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station, 55 Bridge Road in Haddam, has Easter brunch on April 17 for $52; $35 seniors; $28 ages 4 to 13; 3 and younger free. Seatings at 11 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Salmon, grilled chicken, began Bolognese pasta, breakfast favorites, salads, ham, sirloin and desserts. theriverhouse.com

Gelston House, 8 Main St. in East Haddam, has an Easter buffet on April 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. $37.95, $16.95 for 10 and younger. Shrimp cocktail, breakfast favorites, chicken, mac and cheese, cod, ham, prime rib. gelstonhouse.com

Hilltop, 39 Adamec Road in Willington, has a three-course prix fixe meal for $39.99 on April 17. Entrees include sirloin, lamb, pork loin, ham, prime rib, salmon, St. Thomas tuna, seafood primavera, chicken a la vodka and blackened chicken. Salads are Caesar or garden and dessert is cheesecake or chocolate cake. hilltopct.net

Union Kitchen, 43 LaSalle Road in West Hartford, has brunch specials — ham and eggs and salmon flatbread — on April 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner specials include crab cake and rack of lamb. unionkitchenct.com.

Wurst Haus, 37 LaSalle Road in West Hartford, has a brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 17. Offerings include breakfast favorites as well as a chicken bratwurst frittata and a Monte Cristo sandwich. wurst-haus.com.

East Street Eatery, 141 East St. in Wolcott, has an Easter buffet on April 17 with seatings at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., for $25.95, 10 and younger half price. Mushroom marsala soup, chicken orzo soup, salad, pork, ham, ziti carbonara, rigatoni alla vodka, chicken Milanese, salmon, desserts. eaststreeteatery.com

Fresh Salt at Saybrook Point Resort & Marina, 2 Bridge St. in Old Saybrook, will serve brunch on April 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. $69.95, $34.95 kids 5 and older. Breakfast favorites, shrimp cocktail, salmon, trout, mussels, tuna, salmon, duck breast, smoked chicken, venison andouille sausage, lamb, ham, prime rib, a wok station, flounder, sirloin, swordfish, spinach and garlic ravioli. saybrook.com

Hilton Mystic, 20 Coogan Blvd., has an Easter brunch on April 17 with sittings at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. $57, younger than 5 free. Minimum table size is four people, maximum is 10 people. Breakfast favorites, pea soup, gouda-to-mato-basil bisque, salads, lamb, sirloin, bread, chicken bruschetta, salmon, candy and sweets. eventbrite.com.

The Grand Oak Villa, 550 Sylvan Lake Road in Watertown, has an Easter brunch on April 17 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. $50; $25 ages 6 to 12. Reservations required by April 10. Antipasto, grilled vegetables, salad, ciabatta rolls, shrimp cocktail, smoked salmon, calamari salad, crepes, pancakes, frittata, cavatelli Bolognese, rigatoni alla vodka, grilled steak bavette, eggplant rollatini, chicken carciofo, herbed risotto with mushroom and scallops, lamb, ham, and sweets. thegrandoakvilla.com

La Llorona Progressive Mexican Cuisine, 13 Hope St. in Niantic, has an Easter brunch buffet on April 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. $50; $25 ages 5 to 12; under 5 free. Among the offerings are shrimp chowder, chipotle tomato bisque, New York strip steak, ham, poblano home fries, huevos a la Mexicana, chilaquiles, enchiladas de huevo, salmon, chicken and rice and beans. lalloronact.com

The Wharf at Madison Beach Hotel, 94 W. Wharf Road in Madison, has an Easter brunch on April 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. $97; $45 ages 6 to 12; 5 and younger free. All reservations are pre-paid and cancellations accepted until April 14 at 6 p.m. Prime rib, ham, omelets, soup, salads, raw bar, eggs Benedict, duck confit hash, cheese blintz, white bean lamb cassoulet, ricotta stuffed pasta, chicken breast, miso glazed salmon thewharfmadison.com

Shell & Bones Oyster Bar and Grill, 100 S. Water St. in New Haven, will offer Easter dinner April 17 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Specials include spring pea avocado gazpacho and "Everything" House-Cured Salmon, braised lamb shank , monkfish and vegetarian paella. Desserts include pineapple carrot coconut sorbet and strawberry white chocolate trifle. shellandbones.com.

The Spa at Norwich Inn, 607 West Thames St. in Norwich, is serving Easter brunch on April 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. $68; $22 children; 5 and younger free. Mimosas, lobster bisque, panzanella salad, corned beef hash, blueberry pancakes, Caesar salad, lamb Bolognese, fried chicken, swordfish frittata, short rib, French toast and desserts. thespaatnorwichinn.com.

Captain Daniel Packer Inne, 32 Water St. in Mystic, offers a price fixe Easter menu for $55. Appetizers are pea soup, shrimp cocktail, wild boar-stuffed artichoke and DPI salad. Entrees include ham, short ribs, lamb ossobuco, diver scallops, vegan mushroom goulash. Also desserts. danielpacker.com

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Easter is the time of the year for lamb. Make your brunch and dinner reservations now for the holiday. **FILE**

Cupcakes that are positively dreamy

By Sheela Prakash
TheKitchn.com

JOE LINGEMAN/THEKITCHN.COM

Black bottom cupcakes fall somewhere between chocolate cupcakes and cream cheese brownies. These are cupcakes that eschew frosting. Instead, the tender-crumbed chocolate cake reveals a delicious chocolate chip-studded cream cheese filling when broken apart. They're a moist, fudgy and luxuriously rich treat.

The fluffy chocolate cake is similar to Devil's food cake and relies on cocoa powder for its chocolate flavor. The cream cheese filling is a simple mix of softened cream cheese, granulated sugar, egg and vanilla extract. To gild the lily, mini chocolate chips are folded into the filling.

Mini chocolate chips are the best choice for the cream cheese filling because they're light enough to stay suspended in the filling; regular chocolate chips would sink. If you have a bag of regular chips, just use the same amount and give them a rough chop before folding them into the filling.

Because black bottom cupcakes have a cream cheese filling, it's best to refrigerate them. Pack leftover cupcakes in an airtight container and store them in the fridge for up to three days. While you can enjoy them cold, straight from the fridge, I like to leave them out on the counter for 20 minutes or so to come to room temperature before eating.

Black bottom cupcakes

Makes: 12 servings
8 ounces cream cheese
2 teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
¾ plus ⅓ cup granulated sugar, divided
2 large eggs, divided
¾ teaspoon kosher salt, divided
½ cup mini semisweet chocolate chips
½ cup water
¾ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup unsweetened natural cocoa powder (not Dutch-process)
¾ teaspoon baking powder
¾ teaspoon baking soda
½ cup whole or 2% milk
¼ cup canola or vegetable oil
2 teaspoons apple cider or distilled white vinegar

1. Place 8 ounces cream cheese in bowl of a stand mixer (or large bowl if using an electric hand mixer). Let sit at room temperature until softened, about 30 minutes. Meanwhile, arrange a rack in middle of oven and heat to 350 degrees. Line standard 12-well muffin pan with paper liners.

2. Add 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract to cream cheese. Beat with the paddle attachment on medium speed until fluffy, about 1 minute. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and the beater with a rubber spatula. Add ⅓ cup of the granulated sugar, 1 of the large eggs and ¼ teaspoon kosher salt. Beat on low speed until combined and mostly smooth (a few lumps are okay), about 1 minute more. Add ½ cup mini chocolate chips and beat on low speed until just combined.

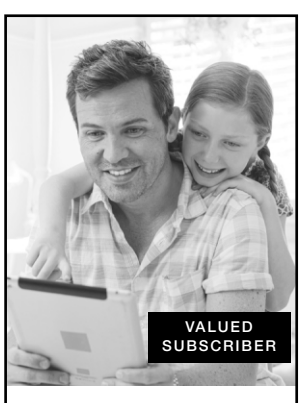
3. Bring ½ cup water to a simmer in a small saucepan over medium heat. As soon as the water comes to a simmer, turn the heat off. (Alternatively, use an electric or stovetop tea kettle and bring it to a boil.)

4. Place ¾ cup all-purpose flour, the remaining ¾ cup granulated sugar, ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder, ¾ teaspoon baking powder, ¾ teaspoon baking soda and the remaining ½ teaspoon kosher salt in a medium bowl. Whisk to combine.

5. Add the remaining 1 large egg, ½ cup milk, ¼ cup canola or vegetable oil, 2 teaspoons apple cider or white vinegar, and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. Whisk to combine. Pour in the hot water and whisk to combine. The batter will be quite thin.

6. Divide the batter evenly between the wells in the pan, filling each no more than ¾ full. Dollop each with 2 tablespoons of the cream cheese mixture, dividing it evenly among the cupcakes.

7. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cupcakes comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Let the cupcakes cool in the pan for about 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



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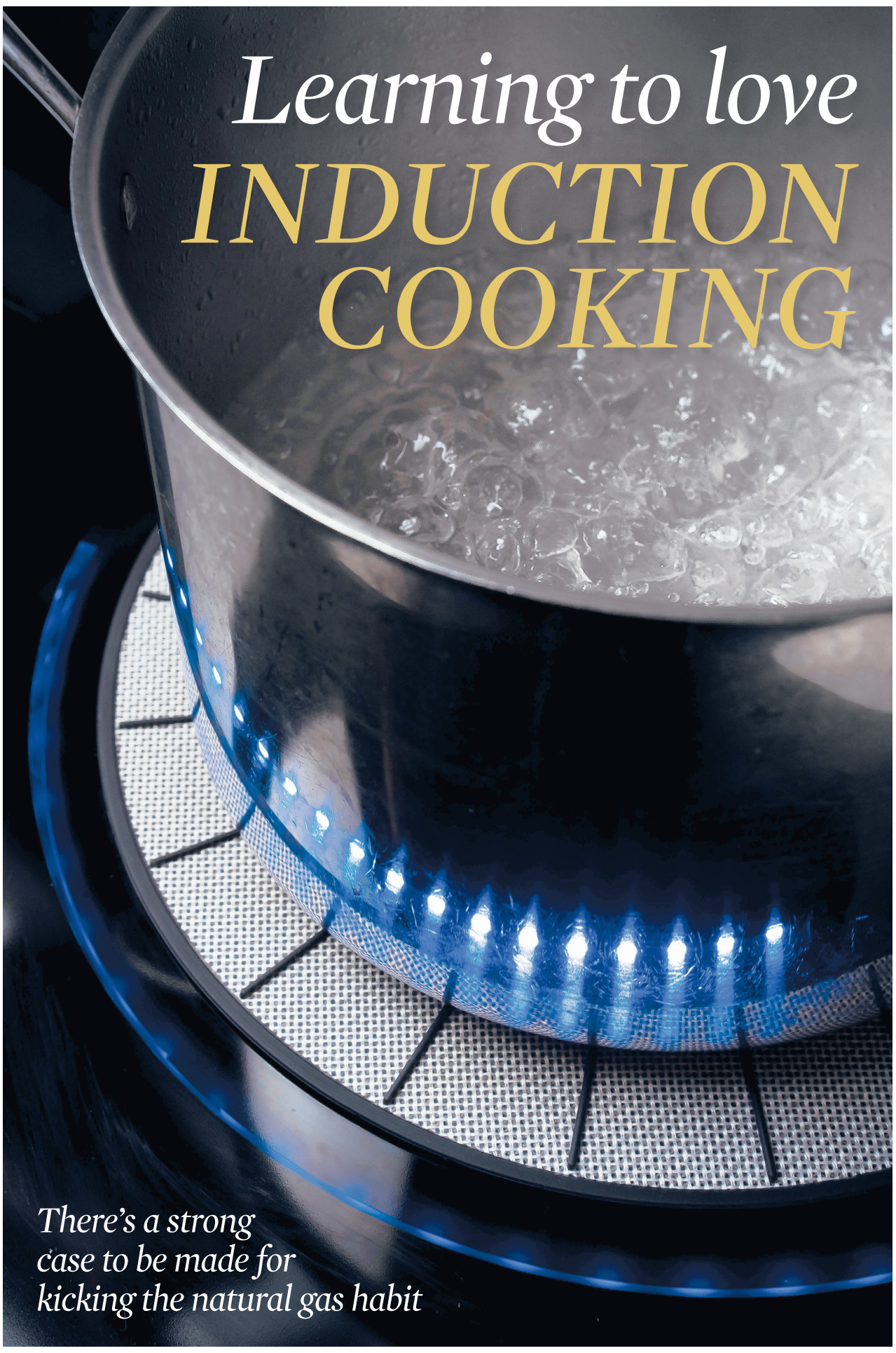

An induction cooktop with blue lights that mimic the flames of a gas stove at the Brooklyn home of Robert Osborne on March 8. Cooking with gas has been shown to be catastrophic for the environment. **KARSTEN MORAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

By Melissa Clark
The New York Times

It took Osborne a few weeks to get used to his induction stove, but now he loves its ability to maintain even temperatures at both low and high heat. **KARSTEN MORAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

NEW YORK — Robert Osborne grew anxious about dinner when his Brooklyn co-op board put the kibosh on a plan to move a gas line for his kitchen renovation. How could Osborne, a math teacher, cook his favorite dishes like skillet chicken with caramelized mushrooms and onions if he couldn't do it over the classic blue-orange blaze of a gas stove?

Like many of the more than 40 million home cooks in the United States with gas stoves, Osborne considered his to be essential, a nonnegotiable part of his kitchen that, had it not been for the co-op board, he would have kept.

After all, cooking over the open fire of a gas stove sparks something primal and intuitive in our lizard brains. Watching flames leap over the sides of a pan and lick the bone of a sizzling lamb chop is visceral and sensual, two adjectives you might not associate with the sleek ceramic surface of the Samsung induction range Osborne ended up installing instead.

But for all the sexiness of cooking with gas (a concept bolstered by aggressive lobbying and advertising from the natural gas industry), it has been shown to be catastrophic for the environment, emitting potent greenhouse gases like methane into the atmosphere. Worse, a recent study demonstrated that 75% of these emissions occur when the stove is off.

The noxious fumes that get trapped in our homes are also harmful, especially for children.

Brady Seals, a manager at RMI, a nonprofit focused on sustainability, and an author of a study examining the health effects of gas stoves, said indoor nitrogen dioxide levels can spike quickly, reaching hazardous levels in the amount of time it takes to bake a cake.

"For children who live in a home with a gas stove, the increased risk of asthma is on par with living in a home with a smoker," she said.

So just as someone might want to quit smoking, there's a strong case to be made for kicking the natural gas habit.

Happily, there is induction, which uses electromagnets to efficiently heat cookware without the inherent pollution of fossil fuels like natural gas.

While induction stoves may have far less lizard-brain appeal than gas, the latest models gain in unmatched power, precision and responsiveness. And, as anyone who routinely bubbles oatmeal onto the metal hob of a gas stove will be thrilled to read, cleaning the smooth cooktop of an induction range is an absolute breeze.

Although induction technology has been around for decades and is established in Europe, it has yet to catch on extensively here. According to Consumer Reports, induction cooktops and ranges are installed in only under 5% of homes in the United States.

This figure is likely to increase as New York and other cities across the country enact legislation limiting gas hookups in new construction. In luxury buildings, induction is not only seen as more efficient and functional than regular electric stoves — the kind with the red-hot circles that always smell like scorched milk — but it's perceived as more upscale as well.

But induction stoves are expensive. Starting around $1,000, they're twice the price of a basic gas range. Still, industry experts agree that, as demand increases, prices will fall.

Rachelle Boucher, owner of Kitchens to Life, a California consulting company that helps cooks electrify their kitchens, said that even as prices for induction stoves begin to come down, she's seeing quality improve by leaps and bounds.

The newest wave of products, she said, incorporate nuanced technology that allows you to set and maintain precise temperatures — for example, the exact 180 degrees you'd need for a satiny crème anglaise without risk of curdling. Some cooktops will even let you move pans around different heat zones, mimicking a French top.

"The more people learn about the environmental costs of gas, the more they're turning to induction," Boucher said. "It's the future; there's no going back."

Before writing this article, I spent time testing induction in my house, various friends' kitchens and several showroom kitchens.

At home, I pulled the knobs off my gas stove and hid them in a drawer to discourage cheating. Then, I covered the hobs with metal sheet pans, arranged two portable induction burners on top of the pans, and vowed to give up the gas for at least two weeks.

The first order of business was figuring out which pieces of cookware were compatible with induction, then rearranging them so the viable ones were in easy reach. Only magnetic pans like cast-iron and stainless steel will work, which sidelined my beloved copper pans.

Then I got to cooking. I boiled huge pots of pasta water in minutes on the highest setting and marveled at the speed. Then I slowly sautéed skillets of slivered garlic on low heat, never scorching them, no matter how long I got lost in my phone. With one burner on high and the other on low, I could make my favorite midnight pasta faster and more easily than on my gas stove.

Using a cast-iron pan and the highest setting, I achieved gorgeously rare lamb chops that were more evenly bronzed and crisp-edged than usual. Wiping up their splatter was the work of 20 seconds with a vinegar-soaked cloth, rather than the quarter-hour it would take to pull off the greasy hobs and scrub them in the sink.

In the mornings, my low-heat scrambled eggs were soft, custardy and never overcooked. And once I learned to set my oatmeal pots to simmer at exactly 209 degrees, they never came close to overboiling.

One thing that I did notice was the difference in the two burners. Although both worked similarly (and extremely well) at the highest and lowest settings, there was a huge difference in the middle. The high-end burner — an expensive Breville Control Freak I borrowed for testing — could be set to an exact temperature, like the 209 degrees I need for simmering my oatmeal. With the less-expensive burner (a Duxtop), I could only set temperature intervals of 20 degrees. At 200 degrees, my oatmeal didn't even bubble. At 220 degrees, it boiled over. Luckily, cleaning it up was a cinch.

In my testing of both burners and ranges, I found that the thing I valued most was precision — that is, having as many temperature options as possible. I also greatly preferred chunky knobs to a touch screen: They were more intuitive and easier to maneuver when my hands were dirty or wet.

As for the knobs from my gas stove, it's been four weeks, and I still haven't reattached them.

I think they're in that drawer but, honestly, I haven't checked. I haven't missed the gas at all.

Silky scrambled eggs with pancetta, pepper and Pecorino

Keeping the heat low and steady is the key to soft scrambled eggs. Pancetta adds a brawny bite, but you can leave it out to make the dish vegetarian. Do add lots of freshly ground black pepper, though: It's what gives the custardy eggs a spicy snap.

Makes: 2 servings **Total time:** 15 minutes
2 to 3 ounces pancetta, diced
1 to 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
6 eggs
Pinch of salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Grated Pecorino Romano, Parmesan or other hard grating cheese
1. Using a nonstick or well-seasoned cast-iron pan, heat the pancetta over medium. Let cook, shaking the pan, until the fat renders out and the pancetta browns all over, 3 to 10 minutes, depending on how large the cubes are.
2. If the pan looks oily, pour (or spoon) off any excess grease. Add butter to the pan and let melt. Reduce heat to low.
3. Beat the eggs and salt in a medium bowl until well mixed but not frothy. Pour into the skillet with the pancetta and, using a heatproof spatula or wooden spoon, scramble the eggs until they are just set, 2 to 4 minutes. Take care that the eggs don't brown, lowering the heat further if necessary.
4. Divide eggs onto two plates and shower pepper generously over the top. Sprinkle with cheese and serve at once.

Scrambling eggs over the low heat of an induction burner keeps them custardy and soft. **SANG AN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Midnight pasta with anchovies, garlic and tomato

Tomato paste gives this speedy midnight pasta, studded with anchovy and garlic, its color and umami. If you're not an anchovy fan, you can substitute a few tablespoons of chopped capers or olives. Be generous when adding the pasta water to the pan. The mixture should look soupy at first, but the sauce will thicken up as you toss.

Makes: 2 servings **Total time:** 25 minutes
Salt, as needed
½ pound bucatini, spaghetti or linguine
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
4 to 8 oil-packed anchovy fillets, chopped (optional)
Large pinch of red pepper flakes, plus more for serving
1 ½ tablespoons tomato paste
½ small lemon, zested
Handful of coarsely chopped parsley or basil leaves and tender stems, plus more for garnish
Grated Parmesan, for serving (optional)
1. Bring a large pot of well-salted water to a boil over high heat. Add pasta and cook, according to package directions, until about 2 minutes shy of al dente so the pasta can finish cooking in the sauce. It should still have a slight crunch in the center. Reserve 1 cup of the pasta cooking water, then drain the pasta.
2. While the pasta is cooking, in a large skillet, combine the oil, garlic, anchovies (if using), red pepper flakes and pinch of salt over low heat. Cook until garlic is opaque and a few of the slices are pale gold at the edges (don't let the garlic turn brown), 2 to 5 minutes. Add tomato paste and cook until it darkens, about 1 minute longer.
3. Add the drained pasta, lemon zest and ⅓ cup of the reserved pasta water to skillet. Stir until the pasta is al dente and well coated with sauce. Add more pasta water, if needed, until the sauce is glossy and the pasta cooked to taste.
4. Cut zested lemon half in half (so you'll have a quarter of a lemon) and squeeze some juice into pasta. Stir in herbs and taste, adding more lemon juice and salt, if needed. Cut remaining lemon into wedges and serve it alongside pasta, which should be garnished with more herbs and red pepper flakes, drizzle of oil and generous sprinkle of cheese, if you like.

A pot of pasta water boils very quickly on an induction range. **SANG AN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

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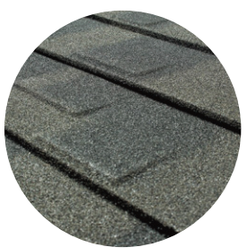

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